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Otsego & Plainwell
UNION ENTERPRISE

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Volume 71, Issue 11 · www.wilcoxnewspapers.com Thursday, September 11, 2025

Everybody loves a parade!

The Allegan County Fair hosted its annual parade on Monday, Sept. 8, with hundreds of spectators lining the route from downtown Allegan to the grand stand on the fairgrounds.

As usual, the Otsego High School marching band and the Otsego Middle School band were part of the festivities, with the high school band using the experience as preparation for its upcoming marching competitions.

The parade lasted approximately an hour, providing plenty of fun and smiles for those in attendance. (Photos by Jason Wesseldyk)

Learn 'n Grow Learning Center adds community garden

A group of preschool students, including Henry Linton (in green), tend to their class' plot at the new Learn 'n Grow garden. (Photo provided)

A Learn 'n Grow teacher helps a student at the new garden. (Photo provided)

Preschool students at Learn 'n Grow Early Childhood Education Center in Otsego are used to getting their hands dirty outside, as they are explore and play in all kinds of weather conditions.

But their newest outdoor adventure is yielding some delicious results.

New this school year is a large community garden with multiple plots, one for each classroom at the school.

Learn 'n Grow teacher Kari Kemp-Vist got the idea for the garden after attending the National Children & Youth Garden Symposium conference led by the American Horticultural Society this summer. The conference had a couple of sessions on sensory gardening and community gardening in schools.

Given that Learn 'n Grow is a nature-based preschool, Kemp-Vist thought the garden would be a great addition.

"The goal is to provide hands-on, outdoor learning that connects students with nature and instills healthy habits," Kemp-Vist said. "I thought this would be a great opportunity for Learn 'n Grow."

Kemp-Vist and her classroom aide, Laura Rathe, got to work planning and gathering donations to make it happen before the start of school. Most donors are friends and family members in the area happy who were happy to help out.

It took the group of volunteers a couple of weekends to build the garden … and it didn't take long for the students to get out and start putting it to use.

Students weeded their plot, chose a vegetable and then planted the seeds. They'll water and weed their plots then enjoy the fruits of their labor.

"The kids want to go out every day and see if anything has grown yet," Kemp-Vist said. "They are so excited to eat our veggies and take some home to share with their family.

"They have taken parents out to show what they have done so far. They are showing pride and joy with what they have done in the garden so far. My heart just melts watching the kids' excitement, curiosity and love for being outdoors."

Classes planted spinach, beets, carrots and snap peas in their vegetable beds. Lemon balm, chives, and strawberry mint were planted in the sensory bed.

Students have already been able to pick and enjoy cucumbers.

Learn 'n Grow director Heather Buskard said the garden presents the opportunity to share many lessons with the students.

"We are hoping they will learn the lifecycle of a plant, where food comes from, what soil needs to grow healthy plants and how to take care of something over a period of time," Buskard said.

"This is an opportunity to work on fine motor skills, problem solving, math skills, literacy skills, teamwork and it builds responsibility, all done outside in nature," Kemp-Vist said. "It also is a place that can be therapeutic, helping to self-regulate when needed.

"We have one section with herbs to utilize our senses."

This year, the focus is on picking a fall crop and trying it out. Students will learn what they need for the soil to be healthy by the end of the year.

"This will be a great springboard for the importance of worms in our soil," Buskard said. "Hopefully, teachers and students will be able to plant two crops in the fall and spring."

Otsego Public Schools extended a special "thank-you" to those who helped make the garden possible: Visser Construction; Dock Master; Hazelhoff Builders; Tractor Supply; Walmart; Woodwork Specialties; H & K Excavating; Bonnie Sincler; the Rathe family; and the Vist family.

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The Semi-Finals for the Allegan County Show Us Your Talent will be on Thurs., Sept. 11, 2025, beginning at 6pm in the Youth Building of the Allegan County Fair. All are invited to enjoy vocalists, musicians and dancers as they share their talents. Pictures: Cheryl Piippo, Marie Lallinger Smith, Kim Pullen, Jay Oetman, Syra Colburn, Erik Belka, Jr. Dallas Belka, Lucille Noble, Ashlyyn Pullen, Jedadyah Noble. Not Pictured: The Kill the Mood trio. Photo: Karen Oetman

Allegan's Got Talent contestants shine at fair

By Gari Voss

The first round of the Allegan County Show Us Your Talent competition on Saturday, September 6 and Sunday, September 7, 2025, took the stage in the Allegan County Fairground's Youth Building. Eleven entertainers or groups wowed the audience and judges with a variety of acts that included vocal, instrumental and dance acts.

Contestants will return to the Youth Building on Thursday, September 11th for the Semi-Finals. At 6pm, the house lights will dim, and the stage lights will come up on some fabulous talent from Allegan County.

"I was very impressed with the level of talent from both new contestants and returning contestants who had improved significantly since first appearing in the contest," Greg Howard stated. "Going through to the Semi-Finals are Cheryl Piippo, Marie Lallinger Smith, Kim Pullen, Jay Oetman, Syra Colburn, Erik Belka, Jr. Dallas Belka, Lucille Noble, Ashlyyn Pullen, Jedadyah Noble, and the Kill the Mood trio.

On Friday, September 12th, the finalists will return to vie for the 1st Place Prize of $500. Others will take the 2nd Place Prize of $250, or 3rd Place Prize of $100.

All are invited to enjoy and support the wonderful talent in Allegan County.

Allegan roundabout receives AASHTO award

The Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) $7 million roundabout project in Allegan is this year's winner of the Quality of Life/Community Development small project award.

The award was given by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) for Allegan's new traffic circle and rebuild of the M-89/M-40/Hubbard Street intersection.

"I'm very proud of our team and we accept this award with honor and appreciation on behalf of the Department and the good people from the city of Allegan," said MDOT project manager and engineer Thomas Sabin.

The five-legged intersection was a prime candidate for a roundabout, to help with congestion and safety in an area where three state routes connect, MDOT said in a release.

Six vie for Young Homemaker

One of the highlights of the Allegan County Fair is Ladies Day! This year at Ladies Day the 2025 Allegan County Young Homemaker will be announced. Here are the participants:

From L-R back row: Becky Wallace (coordinator) Jessica List, Alissa Harpe, Joni Brummel (coordinator)

Front row: Laura Abbott, 2024 Allegan Co Young Homemaker Amanda Coors, Kiona Assink and Michelle Sinclair. (Janaya McKeon is not pictured.)

Fennville takes step toward revitalization with housing and mixed-use development

by Andrea Philipp

The City of Fennville is taking significant strides toward revitalizing its downtown corridor with a development plan that is both innovative and deeply rooted in community needs. According to Samuel Jacobs, the city's initiative is unique in its focus: bringing "missing middle" housing types—such as townhomes and fourplexes—into the heart of downtown. The project also emphasizes the importance of mixed-use development, combining residential and commercial spaces to reinvigorate the local economy and support the city's long-term vision.

This new approach aims to fill a critical gap in the local housing market. Missing middle housing refers to building types that fall between single-family homes and large apartment complexes, offering more affordable and flexible living options. These types of homes are ideal for young professionals, small families, and seniors—groups that often struggle to find suitable housing in traditional development models. By introducing these housing options in downtown Fennville, the city hopes to attract a diverse group of residents who will, in turn, bring year-round activity and vibrancy to the area.

"Our goal is to not only build more housing but to build the right kind of housing," Jacobs said. "This development is about creating places for people to live who will also support and sustain our downtown businesses during all seasons, not just the peak tourist months."

Fennville's downtown has already seen significant historic investment, most notably the ongoing restoration of the historic Stevens Hotel. This renewed focus on historic preservation, paired with development on currently vacant land, underscores the city's commitment to building out a vibrant, walkable downtown footprint that reflects both its heritage and its future aspirations.

Mixed-use development is another central pillar of this vision. By combining housing units with ground-floor retail or commercial space, Fennville aims to create a more integrated, livable downtown. These types of developments not only improve walkability and reduce the need for cars but also create a built-in customer base for local businesses—making them more resilient during seasonal fluctuations.

To make this vision a reality, the city has issued Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for two key parcels of land: a city-owned lot and a lot managed by the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Jacob confirmed that a number of developers have already expressed interest and have been provided with the RFP materials.

The selection process is both thorough and transparent:

- RFP Issuance
- RFP Submissions Due (Early to Mid-October)
- Administrative/Staff Review
- Interviews with Top Candidates
- Presentation from Top Candidate and Issuance of Intent to Award Letter
- Negotiation Period of Up to Six Months

This structured approach ensures that the city chooses a developer who aligns with its goals and values, and who can deliver a project that meets both housing and economic development objectives.

Ultimately, Fennville's development plan is about more than just buildings. It's about enhancing the quality of life for residents, supporting the local economy, and making the downtown a destination for both visitors and locals.

"As we continue to grow, it's important to keep our focus on creating spaces where people want to live, work, and enjoy themselves," Jacobs emphasized. "Fennville is 'a place to grow,' and this development is the first step in that ongoing journey."

Love INC Allegan County celebrates 25 years

By Gari Voss

Love In the Name of Christ (Love INC) will celebrate their 25th anniversary on Saturday, September 27, 2025, from 4-7pm on the grounds of their Hamilton office at 4621 135th Ave, Hamilton, MI 49419. In addition to music, games, and fun while visiting with friends and neighbors, dinner will be available beginning at 5pm at the Heart to Heart Resale Store that will be open for shopping.

"This is our way to say thank you so much for your service here at Love INC," shared Executive Director Barry Lucas. "For 25 years, now, we've been relying on volunteers to help us do what we do in this community. For 25 years, we've been transforming lives together. That's worth celebrating."

What began with Dr. Virgil Gulker in 1977 in Holland, MI as a desire to meet the needs of neighbors by empowering local churches, has grown beyond Holland's borders. The goal of empowering churches to help people more effectively has resulted in churches coordinating efforts to be more effective and avoid duplicating services. Love INC is now a national movement with over 100 affiliates and thousands of partner churches in many states across the U.S.A. and in Kenya.

Love INC Allegan County provides a holistic approach to match needs with services. The services are provided through local churches. Individuals and families have access to food, clothing, furniture, household goods, and other essential resources. At the same time, programs like LIFE Skills are provided to assist people through education, mentorship, and support for participants to achieve long-term goals.

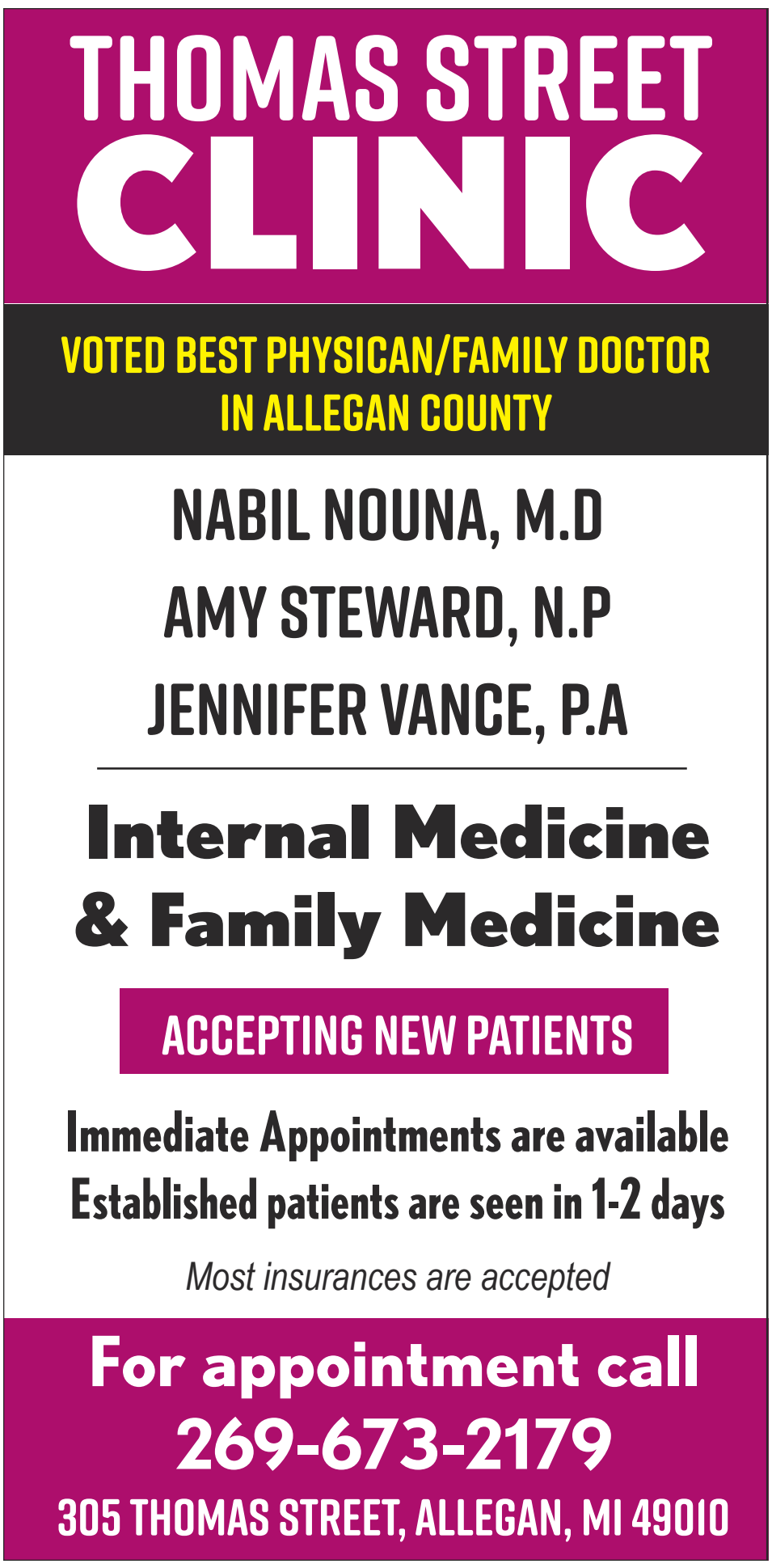
The organization runs on volunteerism. Ordinary people have talents and skills that can be shared. Love INC assists local churches in identifying the people who can utilize their unique skills and talents to meet needs that are not being properly met in their communities.

"When I look at where Love INC Allegan County has been, where it's at today, and where it's going, I am overcome with gratitude," stated Lucas. "God has led this ministry through so much these past 25 years and laid a firm foundation for His presence in Allegan County. We are blessed to be a part of it."

Lucas can reference not only the resale store in Hamilton, but the 10 Homes for 10 Families Program that has already completed its fourth home. Thus far, 37 volunteers have given 1050 hours of service, 201 of which have been professional hours done by volunteers. Of the 1050 hours, 29 were given by builders, 60 in plumbing, 42 in electrical work, and 70 in drywalling. The 4th home was refurbished by the Overisel Reformed Church and will first serve as a Home of Hope home. It was completed and dedicated to a new family, and the family moved in on August 1, 2025.

Love INC provides training to those who wish to become mentors in the LIFE Skills program. The LIFE Skills program has been a significant element in transforming individuals into becoming self-reliant and moving forward in achieving their life goals. A training to become a Love INC Mentor will be held on September 23, 2025, from 1-2:30pm. Call 269 751-2533 for more information.

To RSVP to the 25th Anniversary Celebration on September 27, 2025, call 269 751-2533 or go to https://loveincnwa.org/event/25years/.



Community Events

Community Calendar - Week of September 8, 2025

EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!

Thurs., Sept. 11, 2025, 6pm: Mushroom 101 Workshop
Allegan Conservation District 2412 Taft Rd. Allegan

Be sure to order your tickets for entry, rides & shows
Allegan County Fair
Wed., Sept. 10, 7pm: Flying Star Rodeo
Thurs., Sept. 11, 7:30pm: Gabby Barrett
Fri., Sept. 12, 7pm: SJO Motocross
Fri., Sept. 12, 8pm: Ne-Yo
Sat., Sept. 13, 7pm: Demolition Derby

CURRENT EVENTS

Wed., Sept. 10, 2025, 2pm: Recess for Adults
Allegan District Library Hubbard St. Allegan
Come and enjoy conversation and games with friends of The Arc.

Wed., Sept. 10, 2025, 6-8pm: Sunflowers
Thurs., Sept. 11, 2025, 1-3pm: Sunflowers
Brave Art Studios & Gallery 1873 Lincoln Rd. Allegan
Learn to paint Sunflowers! Register & make payment via https://www.paypal.me/braveartcarr.

Thurs., Sept. 11, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Preschool Storytime - 3-5 year olds can enjoy stories and activities.
4pm: TAG – All teens can bring friends, share snacks, and plan teen activities.

Thurs., Sept. 11, 2025, 6pm: Mushroom 101 Workshop
Allegan Conservation District 2412 Taft Rd. Allegan
A hands-on workshop with the Great Lakes Mushroom Company. Register at alleganc d.org/workshops.

Sat., Sept. 13, 2025, 11am-1:30pm: Acrylic Ink Abstracts
Brave Art Studios & Gallery 1873 Lincoln Rd. Allegan
Come out and play with acrylic inks and water. Register & make payment via https://www.paypal.me/braveartcarr.

Mon., Sept. 15, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library Hubbard St. Allegan
3:30pm: Kids' Anime Club - Bring your own Beyblade spinning tops and challenge friends to see who wins! All ages.
6pm: Craftastic – Halloween Potion Bottles. Decorate Halloween Potion Bottles. Register at 269 673-4625.

Tues., Sept. 16, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Lapsit Storytime. 0-2 year olds can enjoy stories and activities.
3:30pm: Kids' Gaming Club. All ages can enjoy the new kids' Gaming Club.

Wed., Sept. 17, 2025, 1-2:30pm: Calligraphy Class
Bellflower (Schoolhouse) 4700 D Ave. Kalamazoo
Register before Aug. 28 for 6 sessions – Sept. 17, Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29. Cost of materials is $55. For more information email Dr. Bob Hosack at rlhosack967@gmail.com or call 269 349-7980.

Wed., Sept. 17, 2025, 6:30pm: "Nerd" themed Pub Quiz
Tantrick Brewing Hubbard St. Allegan
Join us for a special "nerd"-themed Pub Quiz in collaboration with Tardy's Underground Comics and Collectibles! Registration begins at 5:30pm.

Wed., Sept. 17, 2025: Bike Nights
Wayland Downtown Wayland
downtownwayland.com

Thurs., Sept. 18, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Preschool Storytime. 3-5 year olds can enjoy stories and activities.
3:30pm: The Science of Cotton Candy. All ages can join the Dynamic School Assemblies.
6pm: Great Lakes, Great Stories: Felt Mansion. Register at 269 673-4625 to learn about a century of innovation, elegance, and transformation of the Felt Estate.

Thurs., Sept. 18, 2025, 1-3pm: Hydro Dip Switch plates
Brave Art Studios & Gallery 1873 Lincoln Rd. Allegan
Learn how to hydro dip using solvent based paints on these oversized switch plate and outlet covers. Register & make payment via https://www.paypal.me/braveartcarr.

Fri., Sept. 19, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library Hubbard St. Allegan
2pm: Professional Pumpkin Carving with the Lord of the Gourd. All ages can learn how to create unique pumpkin creations.
6pm: Teen Tech Night. 6-12 graders can experience virtual reality, explore the realm of 3-D printing, and play video games with friends. Register at 269 673-4625.

Fri., Sept. 19, 2025, 8:30pm-12:30am: Glow Disc Golf Night
First Baptist Church S. M-40 Allegan
Fun for the family to support the Congregational Kitchen free meals.

Sat., Sept. 20, 2025, 9am-1pm: Fall Native Plant Sale Pickup
Allegan Conservation District 2412 Taft Rd. Allegan
Order ahead or drop in to select from leftovers. www.alleganc d.org/fallsale

Sat., Sept. 20, 2025, 10am-4pm: Handmade & Boutique Fall Market
Allegan Fairgrounds 150 Douglas St. Allegan
Come shop in autumn vibes - unique gifts, one-of-a-kind home décor, or must have boutique pieces, there is something for everyone!

Sat., Sept. 20, 2025: Allegan High School 68th Reunion
Trestle Stop Hamilton
The class of 1957, the last class to graduate from the old Allegan High School, will have their 68th class reunion.

Sat., Sept. 20, 2025, 4-6pm: Eccentric Garden Plant Workshop
Tantrick Brewing Co. 243 Hubbard St. Allegan

Sun., Sept. 21, 2025, 12 noon: Final Mud Run
Bear Swamp MudRun 2293 28th St. Allegan
Get ready to run. Tailgating is allowed with coolers and grills. Plus Hogg's Nest BBQ will be onsite.

Mon., Sept. 22, 2025, 3:30pm: Puppet-Building Workshop
Allegan District Library Hubbard St. Allegan
Ages 6-12 can join Mel Hatch as she teaches participants to create puppets. Register at 269 673-4625.

Tues., Sept. 23, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Lapsit Storytime. 0-2 year olds can enjoy stories and activities.
1pm: Friends of the Library Meeting. All can join the discussion.
4pm: TAB Teen Advisory Board. All teens can brainstorm ideas, share books, and spark new connections.
6pm: Fall Foraging. Certified forager Allison Loraine will cover several species of edible plants as well as their toxic look-alikes, ethical harvesting practices, and basic foraging safety! Register at 269 673-4625.

Wed., Sept. 24, 2026: Library Fun
Allegan District Library Hubbard St. Allegan
10am: Play Café. Caregivers can enjoy coffee and conversation while little one enjoy Play-Duh.
3:30pm: Native American History. All ages can learn about the rich culture and history of Native American peoples.

Thurs., Sept. 25, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Preschool Storytime. 3-5 year olds can enjoy stories and activities.
3:30pm: Tween STEAAM Club! 4th-7th graders can register at 269 673-4625 to enjoy making edible artwork.

Thurs., Sept. 25, 2025, 1-3pm: Violet Journals
Brave Art Studios & Gallery 1873 Lincoln Rd. Allegan
Paint journals with violets or anything you wish to paint. Register & make payment via https://www.paypal.me/braveartcarr.

Fri., Sept. 26, 2025, 10-11am: Health Hero's Nutrition Class
TBA Allegan
Healthy cooking class for families with children ages 3-5 years old. Register in English or Spanish at bit.ly/familiesconnected2026.

Fri., Sept. 26, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Sing Song Family Yoga. Kids & caregivers can join Deb Weiss-Gelmi for yogi, music, and literacy.
3:30pm: Fantasy Drawing Class. 6th-12th graders can join Natalie Budnick in creating fantasy creatures.

Fri., Sept. 26, 2026, 5-7pm: 4th Friday in Fennville
Celebrate downtown Fennville with food, fun and friends.

Fri., Sept. 26, 2025, 7pm: The Lion, the Witch, & the Wardrobe
Griswold Auditorium 401 Hubbard St. Allegan
Follow the adventures of Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy into the Wardrobe as they battle the White Witch.

Sat., Sept. 27, 2025, 11am: Jumpstart Your Genealogy
Allegan District Library Hubbard St. Allegan
Join genealogist Megan Heyl to uncover family histories.

Sat., Sept. 27, 2025, 7pm: The Lion, the Witch, & the Wardrobe
Griswold Auditorium 401 Hubbard St. Allegan
Follow the adventures of Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy into the Wardrobe as they battle the White Witch.

Sun., Sept. 28, 2025, 8am-4pm: Allegan Antiques Market
Allegan Co. Fairgrounds 150 Fair Dr. Allegan
Shop the antiques and collectibles.

Sun., Sept. 28, 2025, 2pm: The Lion, the Witch, & the Wardrobe
Griswold Auditorium 401 Hubbard St. Allegan
Follow the adventures of Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy into the Wardrobe as they battle the White Witch.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

ASSISTANCE

Adventist Community Service Center
218 S. Farmer St. Otsego Tues. 10am-4pm; Thurs. 1-5pm
Clothes for the family and household goods are available, layettes for newborns, clothing, diapers, toys, etc. for babies to 6 mo. For emergency needs, call 269 694-4775 or Marlene 269 217-8293. This is supported by the 7th-Day Adventist Church and an ACCF TAG Grant.

Allegan County Community Action - Assistance for daily living
23 Water Street, Allegan, MI 49010, www.communityactionallegan.org, (269) 673-5472
Food, weatherization, early childhood education.

Allegan Homeless Solutions - Helping eliminate barriers to housing.
108 Grant St., Plainwell MI 49080
www.alleganhomelesssolutions.org, Email: info@alleganhomelesssolutions.org

The Arc of Allegan County - Advocates for people with disabilities
219 Hubbard Street, Allegan 269 673-8841
Mission to advocate for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the community.

Baby Closet – Newborn Clothing and Supplies
Diaper Closet – monthly diaper program
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street Allegan
Call 269 673-2254 and leave a message.

Christian Neighbors - Food, Education, Emergency Financial Assistance
282 12th Street Plainwell MI 49080 (269) 685-4166
Monday: Drive-thru only - 10am-12pm and 4pm-6pm.
Tuesday: In person shopping/walk ins - 10am-12pm
Thursday: In person shopping/walk ins - 2pm-5pm
We have been providing services to the Plainwell, Otsego and Martin areas since 1983.

Community Clothes Closet – Free Clothing and More
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street, Allegan (269) 673-2254
Open Fridays, 10am – 1pm A wide selection of clothing for all ages is available.

Grief Support Groups
Wings of Hope invites all to a welcoming and compassionate gathering. 1st Monday of the month – 6-7:30pm, Wings of Hope Office, 530 Linn St., Allegan; 2nd Tues. of each month – 12:30-2pm, United Methodist Church, 322 Maple St., Hopkins; 3rd Monday of each month – 3-4:30pm, Ransom District Library, 189 S. Sherwood Ave., Plainwell; 4th Tues., Grief Support Luncheon, 1pm, Salvino's 1290 M89, Plainwell.

Love, Inc.
Love in the Name of Christ 4621 135th Ave. Hamilton
For assistance with food, personal care items, baby needs, household items, clothing, appliances, furniture, bicycles, laundry, showers & Life Skills Wrap Around Care, call 269 751-2533. Visit www.loveincnwa.org., email: office@loveincnwa.org.

People Helping People of Pullman
Assistance by appt. 269 236-6295

Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center - Abuse Prevention and Healing
404 Sherman St., Allegan, MI 49010 www.safeharborcac.org, (269) 673-3791

St. Vincent de Paul-St. Margaret Conference - Food and More
St. Vincent de Paul 124A W. Allegan St. Otsego
Mon.: 1-3pm Tues. & Thurs: 10am to noon Wed.: 3-5pm
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WEEKLY SPECIALS
Tuesdays- 25 cent Popcorn
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The Fennville High School Homecoming game on Friday, September 12, 2025, against the Bloomingdale Cardinals includes the crowning of the Homecoming King and Queen during the halftime show. Those vying for king and queen are left to right: Trinity Solis, Lily Achterhof, Jayden Solis, Makaihla Steanburg, Brooklyn Gardea, Zach Onken, Elena Reyes, and Cruz Medrano.

Fennville Blackhawks celebrate homecoming

The week beginning September 8, 2025, is Homecoming Week at Fennville High School. The FHS Marching Band starts off the week by marching in the Allegan County Fair Parade on Monday evening.

Wednesday, September 10th will find the junior girls going against the senior girls during the Powder Puff football game in Bruder Stadium at 7:30pm. The coaches are classmates of the players, and it looks to be intensely competitive.

Friday, September 12th will begin with the FHS student body assembly at 2pm. The Homecoming Parade will step off at 5pm and showcase the floats and teams from Fennville Public Schools.

Friday's Homecoming game against Bloomingdale begins at 7pm. The coronation of the Homecoming King and Queen will highlight the half-time show.

All are invited to come out for the Parade and Homecoming Game to cheer on the Fennville High School student body and football team.

Rascher takes Overisel supervisor's role

By John Raffel
Correspondent

ALLEGAN —Former Allegan County commission chair James Storey reports Lisa Russcher, the veteran Allegan County Farm Bureau board member and former president, has entered the last third of her first year as Overisel township supervisor.

"The mother of five daughters, ranging in age from six to 14, was elected last November to succeed Russ Van Dam who did not seek re-election," Storey said. "Among her goals is to preserve the agricultural, rural character of the township while responding to the needs and requests of township residents.

"She and husband Jeff are part of a 2,000-acre farming operation with Jeff's father and two brothers. He roots in the area are deep. Her mother grew up in the Oakland area of the township, while she grew up in the Hudsonville area. When she and Jeff married, they rented an apartment in Burnips. Among challenges going forward, Russcher cites funding the fire department and helping residents in some areas find water, a shortage situation exasperated by this summer's drought. She notes the county's second attempt to set a water-monitoring well in the county was unsuccessful."

Storey points out Russcher is not the only new member of the township's board.

"Four of the five members are new to township governance, but "the board has been working well together. Though we are a young board, we are cohesive," she said.

Russcher maintains office hours on Tuesdays at the township hall.

Laketown offers revised contract to manager candidate

The Laketown Township Board of Trustees agreed at a special meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2025, to offer a revised contract to Stephanie Fox to become the township's next manager. The contract comes with an amendment that the board evaluates her performance after 90 days and 6 months in the first year of the contract.

The offer came after board members asked questions about her role in a previous job as administrator of Ionia County and her answers on the job application for the manager position.

Fox challenged negative allegations from former employees and county commissioners, saying her references and employee evaluations show her as professional, calm and a good steward of taxpayer money.

"I like to have a good time. I like to have hard workers but I also want to have a good relationship with all employees," she said.

The final vote on the amended contract was 4-1 with Supervisor Steven Ringelberg opposing the offer.

Stephanie Fox

The proposed contract is for 2 years and sets Fox's annual salary at $110,000 with the possibility of a bonus of up to $15,000 if she meets agreed-upon objectives set by the board in her first 30 days. The proposed contract also includes added vacation days requested by Fox.

The contract states a new manager must start by Oct. 15.

Ringelberg has been handling manager duties since the departure of long-time manager Al Meshkin in January. Ringelberg's contract ends Oct. 31.

Tuesday's meeting was the third interview with Fox who is the current executive assistant to the mayor of the City of Kentwood.

She was chosen as a finalist from a field that started with 45 applicants.

The board voted 4-1 on July 21 to begin contract negotiations with Fox pending a review of her references. Ringelberg was the only "no" vote. Ringelberg said that it was clear to him that Fox's application for the township manager position was not truthful, and for that reason he could not vote in favor of her to be manager.

On and after July 21, the board received additional information regarding Fox, obtained additional records from her time as Ionia County administrator acquired through the Freedom of Information Act, and received phone calls from several Ionia County residents that raised questions about Fox's performance and integrity as Ionia County administrator.

Follow Laketown Township on Facebook, Instagram and Threads.

County hosts expungement fair

By John Raffel

James Storey, former Allegan County commission chairman, reports the county's public defender's office with support from the Michigan Attorney General's office and Christian Neighbor hosted an expungement fair on August 18 in Plainwell to help individuals clear a criminal record in accordance with a recently enacted state law.

"The afternoon event counseled 200 Michigan residents on the steps required to have a criminal conviction removed from their record," Storey said. "The purpose of the fair was to assist individuals prepare the paperwork needed to bring an expungement request before a circuit court judge.

"The court is charged with deciding each expungement request in a public hearing. Requests for expungement can be made following a multi-year 'waiting period' depending upon the seriousness of the conviction for which a particular expungement is requested.

"For example, an individual with one felony must wait five years after either completing a sentence, the imposition of a sentence, or being discharged from probation. The length of the waiting period

depends upon the seriousness of a misdemeanor or the number of felonies committed."

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How to decrease buggy accidents in our communities

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
■ PUBLISHER ■

It happens over and over, an Amish buggy is hit by a car or truck and severe injuries happen to thos in the buggy. Just last week the scene was Clare County, which by the way has had a half dozen such accidents in the last few years. It's a tragedy when it happens and as communities in Michigan we have to do more to prevent such accidents.

Here's my take on why Michigan is seeing so many accidents involving Amish buggies—and what we can do to reduce them:

What's Driving the Increase in Buggy Collisions?

1. Inherent Road Vulnerabilities

• Slow speed + limited visibility: Amish buggies typically travel at only about 5–8 mph—far slower than motor vehicles—which creates dangerous mismatches when drivers misjudge their speed or distance, especially on rural roads with curves and hills.

• Poor nighttime visibility: While safety triangles are required by Michigan law, many buggies lack effective lighting—making them hard to see in low-light areas.

• Minimal protection: Buggies offer no crash protection—no seat belts, airbags, or crash-resistant structure—making collisions especially devastating.

2. Driver Awareness & Behavior

• Driver distraction or impairment: Many of these crashes result from inattentive or impaired driving. In one crash that claimed an 8-year-old's life, the driver was arrested on suspicion of being under the influence.

• Unfamiliarity with buggy laws: Non-Amish drivers often don't realize that horse-drawn buggies are legally categorized as "pedestrians" on Michigan roads, which affects how traffic laws should be approached.

What We Can Do to Prevent These Tragic Crashes

A. Improve Visibility & Buggy Standards

• Boost lighting requirements: Equip buggies with bright front and rear lights, reflectors, blinking lights, and reflective tape. Promote use of high-visibility material where possible.

• Ensure bumper reflectors & triangles: Encourage adherence to existing safety-triangle laws and enhance awareness.

B. Enhance Roadway Infrastructure & Signage

• Add dedicated buggy lanes or wide shoulders: Roads through Amish areas could be redesigned to include safe zones for buggies to travel. This is a great idea, but probably impractical do to costs.

• Install warning signs and reduced-speed zones: Especially near Amish schools and intersections used frequently by buggies. This can and should be done at very little expense. We simply do not have enough buggy warning signs.

C. Promote Education & Community Outreach

• Driver awareness campaigns: Billboards, gas-pump screens, radio spots, and even social media can remind motorists to watch for buggies and slow down. Again we need more awareness and especially billboards would help provide that.

D. Expand Funding & Pilot Programs

• Statewide grants and local initiatives: The $70,000 grant to Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph counties is a solid start—targeting a 15 % crash reduction through outreach, enforcement, and infrastructure improvements. It would be nice for the state to provide the same type of grant to other heavily populated Amish areas, such as Clare County.

The recurring tragedy of buggy-car collisions in Michigan's Amish-populated regions is a complex intersection of culture, infrastructure, regulation, and road habits. It is clear, though, that better visibility, stronger community education, thoughtful road design, and legislative support can dramatically lower risks.

By honoring Amish traditions while prioritizing safety, we can protect some of Michigan's most vulnerable road users and avoid heartbreaking losses.

I'm very upset that practically every week I read about another buggy accident. We can do better Michiganders.

Life as Performance Art

G CORWIN STOPPEL

As the story goes, a grandfather was trying to help his young grandson with some history homework for school. The boy was frustrated and asked gramps if he had to study it when he was in school. When the Old said 'yes,' the boy replied, "I'll bet it was easier for you because there wasn't so much of it back in the olden days."

As a short-cut through history, one of the things we often do is make some comparisons situations or events to the past, both good and bad. We also will look at a modern figure and make a favorable or unfavorable comparison to someone out of the past. It is a way of attempting to better understand our own world. In part, we do it because with the passage of time our memories get distorted, and things don't appear to be as bad as they were when they happened. In a greater part, however, we do it because we want to see if we can predict what will happen in the future. That is because we believe the phrase, history repeats itself.'

In a television interview professor of ancient history at Cambridge University, Mary Beard, warns it is a very dangerous thing to compare a contemporary leader with someone out of the past. She believes we usually get it wrong. Then, halfway through interview in late August, she was asked which Roman emperor was most like President Trump, she laughed and spilled the proverbial beans.

No, he is not at all like the well-known trio of wicked emperors: Caligula, Claudius, Nero.

There were several more, but none of them are as well-known as the Big Three. However, even they are small potatoes compared to her favorite bad boy. Professor Beard said we should consider a comparison between President Trump and Emperor Sextus Varius Avitus Bassianus. He is better known by his nickname, Elagabus. Suffice to know that this was not a term of endearment. I had never heard of him, so that led to a few wonderful hours of research.

Elagabus was from an important Syrian family that had close connections with many of the emperors. However, no one expected very much of him, and for the first years of his life he was shuffled off to serving as a priest of the Syrian sun god. He was not yet a teenager when, thanks to the right connections and his very pushy Aunt Julia, he was made the chief priest of the cult.

Four years later, his aunt Julia engineered a coup to overthrow the emperor Caracalla and may have had a direct knife hand in assassinating him. A fairly incompetent man, and not a member of the Senate, Macrinus became the new emperor. He managed the one accomplishment no other emperor could claim: he never once visited Rome. Instead, he preferred to stay out in the in the country, making his courtiers come to him. Then again, perhaps the reasons he did not visit Rome was that the royal coffers had been completely drained by Caracalla, and there was no money to pay for a state visit. Military parades and banquets are expensive, as we know.

He attempted to reform the imperial finances but got nowhere, and when his ideas threatened the financial well-being of the lethal Julia, she promptly organized another assassination. By this time her nephew Elagabus was fourteen years old, and she stage-managed things to make him the emperor.

If Elagabus was out of his depths as the chief priest of a religion, he was all the more so as emperor of the great Roman Empire. The young man completely lacked the one important personality trait for all Romans: 'gravitas' which is Latin for seriousness. His downfall began when he rejected the ancient Roman pantheon of deities. In a great ceremonial procession into the city, he brought the BAETYL stone (probably a meteorite) which members of his religious cult proclaimed to be the house of the god. To nobility and peasant alike, it was as if he announced, here is your new god, of whom you nothing, that you WILL worship. To compound his inauspicious beginning, he ordered all of the Senators, their families, and the leading citizens of Rome to participate in the cult's rituals.

Then, he made matters worse. With his hormones in overdrive and seeing the entire empire as his personal playground, he married one of the vestal virgins. For centuries, such an act was unthinkable. Just to engage in a bit of canoodling with a Vestal Virgin was a capital offense, but Elagabus justified it by saying he and Vestal Virgin Aquilla Severa would have beautiful "god-like babies.'

He soon divorced her, and then married three more wives in quick succession, lavished expensive gifts of male courtesans, and went so far as to work as a prostitute in some of the city's brothels.

His personal life aside, Elagabus went on a vendetta against his enemies. Many of them were executed in retribution for some real or alleged offense, or so their wealth could be legally confiscated by the emperor. He appointed unknown individuals to high office, removed senior officers in the Praetorian Guard, and then, when no one cautioned him to be more discreet, he made his aunt, Julia, and another woman a Senator. To demonstrate his power to do whatever he chose to do, he had their likenesses put on the obverse side of gold coins. Once that was done, he entitled his aunt "Mother of the Army Camp," and then debased the purity of gold and silver coins by at least 5 %, thus doing tremendous damage to the national economy when the currency was devalued and inflation soared.

To demonstrate his unlimited power, on one occasion the emperor invited guests to a banquet. All of them had either expressed their doubts about his ability to rule or had not very discreetly opposed him. The dinner was served, and then a trickle of rose petals came down from the ceiling. Soon the trickle became a deluge that panicked his guests, all the more so when they could not escape. According to legend, all of them suffocated under the weight of the flowers.

True story or not, the whispering campaign soon got out of hand. Elagabus made matters all the worse with his strange religious practices, including making the Senators watch as he danced naked around the Baetyl rock, then announced circumcision would be required on the spot. In short, there was no end in sight to his audacity.

Realizing that Elagabus was a danger to the empire, his grandmother Julia (another lethal woman by the same name) made arrangements to be rid of him. The emperor and his mother (yet another woman named Julia) were lured into an ambush, and upon her signal, grandmother and the Praetorian Guard pulled out their daggers and killed the emperor and mother. Aunt Julia was whacked a short time later. He was barely eighteen years old when he was murdered. Their heads were hacked off and paraded through the streets of Rome, their bodies stripped and thrown into the Tiber River, and that was the end of them.

Almost immediately, the Senate, the emperor, and Praetorian Guard set about to erase the name of Elabalus, under the ancient tradition of damnatio memoria. Every public record of him, every likeness of his face, was removed; every statue pulled down and broken.

As I wrote at the beginning, Professor Beard makes a good point when she advised against trying to compare contemporary politicians and leaders with their ancient counterparts.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Road Commission Delays Threaten Pullman's $300,000 Sidewalk and Trail Grant

Dear Editor:

Beautify Pullman has spent over two years working to make Pullman safer and more accessible by creating a plan for sidewalks and multiuse trails for our residents. To date, our nonprofit has already invested $65,000 from grants, donations, and community fundraising into this project, partnering with the respected planning firm Abonmarche Consultants to design a plan that reflects the needs of our community. For the past 16 months, we have worked diligently with Pullman Elementary School on a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant that would bring $300,000 in infrastructure funding to Pullman. This project has overwhelming support from residents and would benefit the many children, families, and seniors who rely on walking and bicycling to get around Pullman.

From the very beginning, the Allegan County Road Commission has been involved in this process. Chairman Larry Brown and Managing Director Craig Atwood were included on all correspondence, invited to every meeting, and were participants throughout. On July 28, Mr. Atwood was at a meeting to review the grant application in full detail, leaving ample time for all partners to complete their responsibilities before the October 1 submission deadline.

Yet on Monday, September 8, we were told by Mr. Atwood that the Allegan County Road Commission cannot complete their portion in the three weeks remaining. This delay jeopardizes the entire project and risks wasting more than a year of hard work and collaboration. If the grant is not submitted on time, we lose our chance at this vital funding and must start over from scratch—something our small nonprofit cannot afford to do alone.

The construction of sidewalks and trails along county roads is not a courtesy—it is the road commission's responsibility to manage and support infrastructure that serves the public. The residents of Pullman deserve a road commission that acts in the public's interest, not one that allows needless delay to put critical funding at risk.

We urge the Allegan County Road Commission to work with us and the Pullman community to ensure this vital project moves forward on time for the benefit of everyone.

Sincerely,
The Beautify Pullman
Board of Directors
Patricia Conway
Marlana Garcia
Shirley Kay
Trish Kuhn
Debbie Laraway
Kris LaPoint

YouTube channel for Plainwell City Council meetings

Dear Editor:

I would like the Plainwell City Council to record the bi-monthly council meetings and post them to a You Tube channel for residents to view beginning with the October 20th, 2025 meeting. The city already has the sound system needed for the recordings, a YouTube channel/account is FREE!. YouTube can be viewed, by you, 24 hours a day/seven days a week. You can be informed about city issues on your time vs. attending the meetings in person at City Hall on first and third Mondays at 7 PM.

Do you know which construction company the city chose to build the river front condominiums? Do you know the time frame of the building and when the single family homes are envisioned to be built? Do you know which of the council members best align with your beliefs? If we have a City of Plainwell YouTube channel available you can view these meetings and know the answers to these questions.

I am a resident of Plainwell and proposed this idea at the July 7 city council meeting. Two of the city council members were supportive of the five members at the meeting. I need your help to show at least one more of the remaining council members you would like to have this resource available. I would like to forward your message of support to the council members, please email me at: loisheuchert269@gmail.com today.

If you would like to email the council members yourself see their email addresses on the city website. If you don't currently use YouTube ask your children, grandchildren, or a neighbor to show you how to access this exciting communication tool. To see what a City Council meeting looks like on YouTube search: @CityofBattleCreekMichigan on your YouTube Channel. They have 1,000 subscribers! Many more cities use YouTube, use the search feature to see many more around the world who post their meetings.

I ask you to show your support today by emailing me that you want our city council meeting available on YouTube today by emailing me at loisheuchert269@gmail.com. You can stay informed about city issues on your time by having the City Council Meetings on the YouTube platform.

Lois Heuchert

The Allegan COUNTY NEWS

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4 P.M. Monday

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Letters to the Editor

Governmental Activities

Dear Editor:

The time has come to be keenly aware of how the government is being run, and how it affects everyday citizens no matter what political party one favors. Some are most disturbing while others are a means of distraction from real issues.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics are not and can not be rigged. New jobs are computed by new jobs created minus jobs lost. The accusation by Trump of inflated numbers for the Biden Administration and sabotaging the Trump Administration are meritless.

The Bureau Chief collects information from top economist and business CEO's coast to coast, and has zero input into the process. It is the chairperson's job and duty to collect the data given to her and inform the pubic of their findings. If President Trump wanted to illegally change the numbers he would have to fire hundreds of economic experts nationwide. It was a ridiculous move to reiterate baseless and untrue stances. It was yet another example of distraction of the economy, chaos of the tariff trade war, and the Epstein scandal. A truly innocent person would have no problem releasing the Epstein files.

The following is coming from the President of the United States on the economy. Trump said he has struck deals with over 200 countries despite the fact that there are not 200 countries in the world (195 countries worldwide). Do you still believe this malarkey?

Trump bragged in a speech that he reduced drug prices by 1500%. If that was the case and a person purchasing a drug costing $100, they would get the drug free and receive a stipend for $1400 also. How can anybody believe this? It shows that the President does not understand basic math or is not being truthful (lying).

The Wall Street Journal sent out a warning in an op-ed titled "The Trump Economy Stumbles". The newspapers conservative leaning board said the "Trumphalalism" (new term) is palpable in MAGA land, but this weeks job report and the economy suggest the new golden age is far off and most likely a dream. The board pointed out: 1. sluggish hiring, 2. sluggish revival of the promised manufacturing which is shrinking not gaining, 3. the only way to stop the bleeding, according to the Wall Street Journal, is to stop the trade war, 4. a large portion of the U.S. manufacturing workforce are foreign-born and the risk of being deported even though most are U.S. citizens with no criminal history is heavy on their minds. This is no way to treat our hard working U.S. citizens.

Other issues of the day: Robert Kennedy Jr. cancelled $500 million dollars worth of vaccine development projects using n RNA technology. This will effect companies lie Pfister and Moderna. This also includes stopping research for the Covid 19 and flu vaccines. Kennedy said he wanted to invest in better solutions, but could not name any. It is just anti-vaccines that during his confirmation hearing said he would not do. Is there a lie here?

Now Kennedy is being sued as he does not have the authority to unilaterally direct an agency to drop Covid 19 or flu vaccines. The lawsuit is being brought by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Physicians.

The takeover of Washington D.C. shows the dictatorial attitude that persists. Prior to the takeover Trump cut $20 million dollars for security issues in Washington D.C. I guess they did not need the already low violent rate funds. What a joke that is not funny. Some facts to consider:

1. Homicides, robberies, and violent crimes have plummeted 26%. Crime is at a 30 year low.

2. Trump and his enablers are lying about the crime rate in D.C.,

3. Trump said other cities the NYC are next. Believe him no matter how crazy it sounds. This is just another distraction from the Epstein scandal that is hurting citizens.

The fact of meeting with cruel dictator Putin on American soil is disgusting. It gives Putin credibility which looks like will delight Trump. We have a totally uninformed leader that Putin will make him look foolish and in the process embarrass our country. We need to support Ukraine who was attacked by Russian military forces. There has been an attempt to withhold military support by the present administration which in essence is supporting Russia who is responsible for many crimes against humanity.

Some of the latest anti-democratic happenings include Trump taking editorial power over the Smithsonian Museum Exhibits. This includes 21 museums, 21 libraries, and a zoo. This eliminates freedom of speech, especially troublesome as Trump moves to rewrite history which is a lie. Totally autocratic and fascist. Can you imagine what will be done to African American History and Culture. How about History and Culture of the American Indian (Native Americans). The Smithsonian has always been non-partisan which Trump and his enablers refuse to accept.

Trump has hidden Barack Obama, George H.W. Bush, and George W. Bush's portraits out of public view. How childish for a sitting president. Gavin Newsome had a perfect response: "Small men hide from history's giants".

This is in response to Ms. Mary Scholten who claims facts from Democrats and those attempting to hold politicians accountable are false. Everything written in this letter to the editor is factual. Many Republican's information is coming from Fox News which is unlicensed and are not required to be truthful. ABC, NBC, CBS, New York Times, Wall Street Journal and many other newspapers must provide proof in their reporting. The TDS mentioned in the critical letter I had to look up. It is a Telecom news agency. While looking it up what TDS meant there was another description which was Trump Dysfunctional Syndrome (I do not know where this originated from).

I would like to be more positive, but I do not see much in the news as of late that is helping average American citizens.

Post Script: Internationally The United States has been put on a list of countries where there is a prospect of democracy departure. Nothing to be proud of!

Mark Austin Hopkins

Obituaries

Janie Pitts (Castillo), 95

Janie Pitts (Castillo), born March 31, 1930, to Eusebio and Anita Castillo, passed away peacefully in her home on September 4, 2025, at the age of 95.

One of ten children, Janie, grew up in a home filled with love and faith. She was preceded in death by her husband, Clyde Pitts, her siblings, John A. Castillo, Paula Garcia, Jessie Castillo, Albert Castillo, Petra Ayala, Paul Castillo, Moses Castillo, and Otilia Rodriguez. She is survived by her brother, Eusebio Castillo Jr.

Janie was a devoted mother of seven: Amelia (Saenz) and Raymond Rodriguez, Noemi Saenz, John Pitts and Linda Meister, Dorothy Pitts, Rebecca (Pitts) and Darryl Mosley, Marileen Pitts, and her late daughter, Ella Mae Pitts-Eurich. Her

Janie Pitts

love extended through the generations as she became the proud grandmother of 14 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, and several great-great-grandchildren.

Her deep love for the Lord shaped every aspect of her life. Strong in faith and devoted to Christian fellowship, Janie mentored many in their walk with Christ and was a source of encouragement, wisdom, and love to all who knew her.

Beyond her faith, Janie expressed her love through cooking meals that brought comfort and joy to her family, and through crocheting and sewing keepsakes that will be treasured for years to come.

Janie's life was a testament to grace, resilience, and devotion. She will be deeply missed, but her legacy of faith, love, and inspiration will live on in her family and all who were fortunate to know her.

To view the date and times of service please visit Chappell Funeral Home | Fennville MI funeral home and cremation

Dorothy (Robinson) Ludlam, 94

Mrs. Dorothy (Robinson) Ludlam, age 94 of White Bear Lake, MN, passed away peacefully at Prelude of White Bear Lake on August 28, 2025.

She was born on March 2, 1931, in Holland, MI, to Thomas and Gertrude (Boot) Robinson, and grew up in Benton Harbor. She graduated from St. John Catholic High School in 1949 and from Michigan State College in 1953 with a BS degree in Elementary Education.

She was a longtime member of St. John Catholic Church in Benton Harbor and Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Allegan, MI.

Dorothy was blessed to be a member of a very large and extended family that she loved dearly, and if you were lucky enough,

Dorothy (Robinson) Ludlam

you were able to join her at her favorite place, the family cottage in Holland. On June 29, 1957, she married R. Joseph (Joe) Ludlam, and he preceded her in death on April 17, 2008. She was also preceded in death by her daughter Dory (Ludlam) Lassiter and son-in-law Kim Lassiter, and by her six sisters and three brothers and their spouses.

Survivors include four children: Mike (Heather) Ludlam of Hopkins, MI; Bob (Jill) Ludlam of Naperville, IL; Karen (Stan) Hokanson of Hugo, MN; Jay (Holly) Ludlam of Chicago, IL; her twelve grandchildren Ryan Lassiter, Rachel (Josh) Cummings, Hallie Lassiter, Samantha (Chase) Bos, Xander (Joseph) Ludlam, Joe Ludlam, John (Ashley) Ludlam, Krissy (Mike) Vitello, Kate (John) Theisen, Steve Hokanson, Hannah Ludlam, Joni Ludlam and four great grandchildren; and by many members of her extended, close, and loving family.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am on Saturday, September 20, 2025, at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 555 E. Delaware Ave., Benton Harbor, MI with Father John Peter Ambrose officiating. Burial will follow at Calvary Cemetery, Benton Harbor. A luncheon will be held at St. Bernard Catholic Church at 12:00pm for those wishing to visit with the family and share memories.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Readiness Center, 530 Columbus Ave., Benton Harbor, MI 49022. Those wishing to leave online condolences may do so at www.mueller-memorial.com/obituaries/dorothy-ludlam.

When it's time to talk about Senior Living

Starting the Conversation

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Faces in the Crowd

By G C Stoppel

Robert F Kennedy is the United States Secretary for Health and Human Services, and has some unique and non-traditional views of vaccines, food, medicine, and a strong desire to Make America Healthy Again - his way. This week's question: Your thoughts on him and what he is accomplishing?

-Woman at Fennville hardware store: "Who? I've heard the name, but I don't know anything about him other than his voice is strange."

-Friend with her: "Oh, that guy! I think he's somehow related to President Kennedy, but I'm not certain."

-Woman near the Fennville grocery store: "I think he might be all right. He's a bit odd, but he's got some solid ideas about eating healthy food, doing the right thing to stay in shape, and things like that. Now, here's a fun fact I want to share. President Kennedy found an old document that President Teddy Roosevelt wanted army officers to be in shape to walk 50 miles in one day. I guess being healthy runs in their family."

-Couple near the Blue Goose; Man: Him and the President know what they're doing. I trust 'em both, especially when it comes to vaccines." Wife nodded in agreement, looks at her husband and then added. "Just not that get in shape idea, I guess."

-Woman near the Allegan Public Library: "You want my opinion. I'll tell you what I think. This Kennedy is a nut. That's what I think. And his good buddy, Senator Paul Rand, is just as big a doofus."

-Woman near the A-Tech offices: "I don't believe much of what he says, and I don't trust him, but he gives us something to think about. Maybe regular medicine isn't all it's cracked up to be. I don't know."

-Man near the Huntington Bank: "Kennedy and Trump are opposed to vaccines. The way I figure it, it's because it would cost money, so they don't want to do it. My brother wouldn't get the Covid shots, and we both came down with it. I got the shots and boosters, and I'm here. My brother didn't and he died. All because he listened to Trump instead of someone with some brains."

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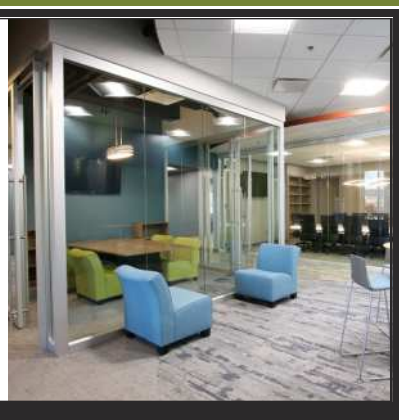

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Class of 1956 holds reunion

Allegan High School classmates from 1956 met August 28, 2025 for a luncheon at the Trestle Stop Restaurant in Hamilton.

Ft. row Margaret Mesek, Bonnie Bazaan (Bensen), Marge Mennega (Chartrand), Beth Simpson (Fletcher), Ellen Berry (Riekse), Sharon Plotts (Oisten).

Back row: Betty Johnson (Miner), Jim Wheat, Marva Allen (Wulbrect) , Bud Ingalsbee, Georgia Bellingar (Draney)

Bob Billman, Bob Hayes, Gene Hough

Allegan County Fair Booths display theme and more

By Gari Voss

Traversing the industrial buildings at the Allegan County Fair can bring some real treasures. The Agricultural Building is sometimes only considered when wondering about the weight and size of the largest pumpkin. But for those who stroll through, a delightful treasure is in the large and small booths that have been decorated not only to present the theme of the fair but the values of the group.

This year's fair these is "Shine & Show Through September's Glow". The booths definitely display their shine and their values all year round. Whether the decorations are as simple as Camp Kidwell with campers enjoying an evening campfire or as elaborate as Camp Kidwell's Festival of Trees, each booth tells a story about the organization. The careful visitor will be hard pressed to see every detail in each booth while admire the creativity of the hands that organized the scene.

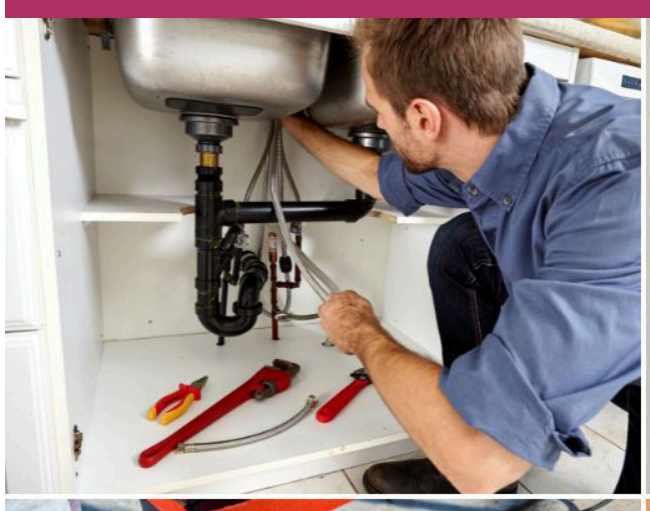
The Allegan County Medical Care Community used a small booth to display the 2025 County Fair and the relationships that they build while caring for residents and those on short stay rehabilitation. Photo: G. Voss

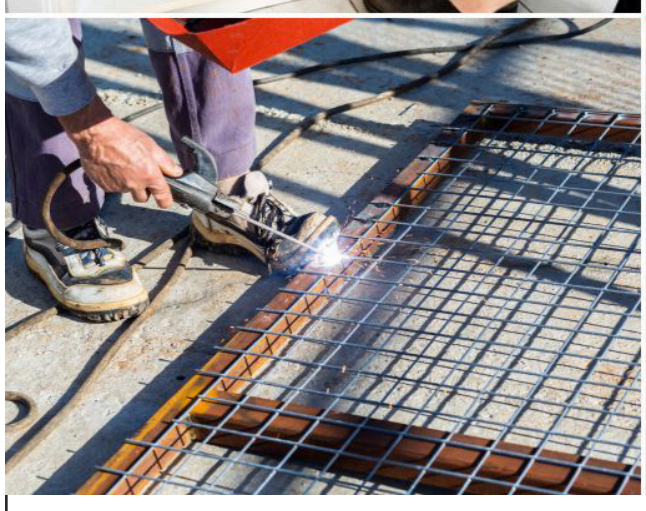
Camp Kidwell's Festival of Trees took first place in the large booths with a wonderful reminder that September will soon shine and glow into December. The first weekend of December, camp turns into a Winter Wonderland with trees, wreaths, and holiday decor. Photo G. Voss

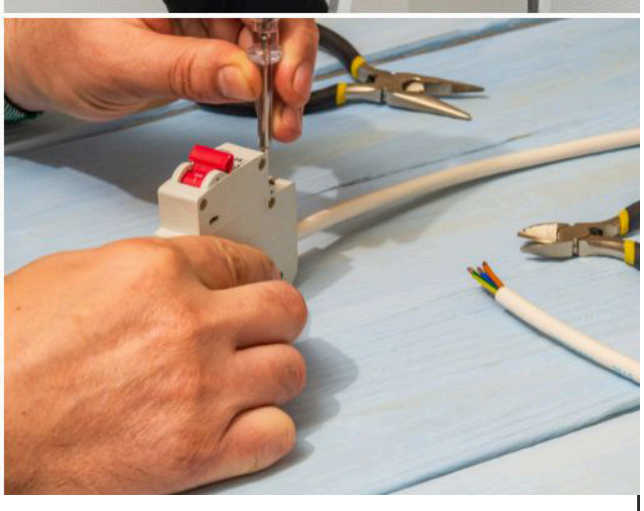
The Allegan County Government's large booth shone a light on the excitement of the fair while highlighting the many areas of government that work the departments do to keep the county safe and thriving for its residents and visitors. Photo: G. Voss

Allegan County's Help Me Grow reminded visitors of the beauty of childhood and how our children can be nurtured to shine and glow through a variety of activities and positive interactions with the adults in their lives. Photo: G. Voss

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT







Skilled Trades

The Backbone of Allegan County

From the shores of Lake Michigan to the fields and factories that drive the economy, Allegan County runs on the work of skilled tradespeople. Carpenters, welders, electricians, plumbers, millwrights, machinists, mechanics, and many others are more than workers. They are the backbone of our communities.

Local companies depend on the steady hands and sharp minds of skilled workers, who also touch everyday life. A plumber in Wayland makes sure a family has safe drinking water. An electrician in Otsego restores power after a storm. A mechanic in Hopkins keeps farm equipment running during harvest season. And a welder in Douglas keeps boats and harbors in top shape for the busy summer season. Each project looks different, but together they reflect the same values: pride, precision, and service to neighbors.

For those just starting out, the future is full of possibilities. Young people entering the trades can gain hands-on experience, develop valuable skills, and build careers that offer both stability and satisfaction. With so many experienced workers retiring in the coming years, there is a real need for the next generation to step in. These careers provide more than a paycheck; they offer the chance to contribute directly to the community, solve real-world problems, and take pride in work that is visible, meaningful, and lasting.

Many would say that their contributions are undervalued, but not here at Allegan County News, Commercial Record, and Union Enterprise. Today, we and the fine community-oriented businesses below salute them, not only for what they build, but for the lasting impact they leave on the place we all call home. The men and women in the skilled trades keep our communities safe, strong, and moving forward.

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Pickleball tourney raises awareness for CPR and AEDs

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

After experiencing cardiac arrest on June 11, 2023, while playing pickleball, Plainwell resident Jeff Brazda was saved when his wife Kathlene and some friends performed CPR until first responders arrived.

Ever since that day, Jeff has been committed to raising awareness about the importance of learning CPR and how to use an AED.

Out of that commitment came the Stayin' Alive Pickleball Tournament, which acts as a fundraiser for the American Heart Association.

The Second Annual Stayin' Alive tournament will take place Saturday, Sept. 20, at the Friendly Pickle (5675 D Ave. W, Kalamazoo).

Everyone who attends will have the opportunity to learn hands-only CPR and how to use an AED.

"The idea of the tournament was just the next step in how we could keep the momentum going for raising awareness of CPR and AED use and helping people feel capable of performing these life-saving actions when it is needed," Jeff said. "Kathlene and I just hoped and believed we could pull it off."

Last year's tournament took place at Ramona Park in Portage and attracted 96 players. This year, Jeff is expecting in excess of 100 participants.

"This year, we are partnering with the beautiful new indoor pickleball facility Friendly Pickle," Jeff said. "They are both the host and a major sponsor of the event.

"Holding the tournament involves a great deal of behind-the-scenes work. There are so many people that have pitched in in big and small ways. There has been so much interest and encouragement. It keeps getting better."

Jeff's cardiac arrest occurred when he was talking to a friend while taking a break between games of pickleball. Fortunately, Kathlene had taken several CPR courses previously and that knowledge came flooding back to her.

"She leapt into action like she was the chief doctor in the ER," Jeff said.

Other friends on site also knew CPR, and they took turns providing chest compressions and rescue breaths until a fireman with the Kalamazoo Township Fire Dept. arrived four minutes later. Four minutes after that, Jeff was attached to an AED and first responders were able to shock his heart back into a normal rhythm.

After a five-day stay in the hospital, Jeff was able to go home. And with him he took his new mission to work with the American Heart Association and spread the word about CPR and AED usage.

"I got involved with the AHA that summer of 2023 and haven't looked back," Jeff said.

That summer, Jeff and Kathlene hosted a picnic at the park where the cardiac arrest took place, and dozens of pickleball players showed up to honor the heroes who saved Jeff's life.

"By fall, people were still talking about the event, and many were expressing interest in learning how to perform CPR," Jeff said.

That continued interest ultimately led to the idea for the Stayin' Alive tournament.

"Cardiac arrest occurs outside of hospital settings more than 350,000 times a year in the U.S., and 75 percent of the time those incidents occur at home," said Jeff, who's now a certified CPR instructor. "You may at some point in your life be called on to perform CPR, and if that happens it is more likely than not to be for a loved one like my loved one saved me.

"When I talk to people about CPR they often say they would be too frightened. We can help people who are frightened. Knowledge, training and practice can make fear manageable. Kathlene tells me that of course she was afraid when I had my cardiac arrest, but the training kicked right in and she was immensely grateful to have something she could do to help."

For more information about the Stayin' Alive Pickleball Tournament, contact Jeff at kathlenejeff@gmail.com.

Plainwell Fire Station prepares to host open house

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Are you looking for some free, family-friendly fun that promises to be "a blazing good time?"

If so, then you'll want to head to the Plainwell Fire Station on Saturday, Oct. 11, as the Plainwell Department of Public Safety hosts a Fire Station Open House beginning at noon.

According to Plainwell Public Safety Director Kevin Callahan, this community-oriented event will feature such activities as fire safety demonstrations, station tours, fire truck displays and a variety of engaging children's activities designed to educate and entertain.

"We want this event to be fun for kids and informative for families," Callahan said. "It's also a chance for our community to come together to support local organizations that help our neighbors in need."

The Fire Station Open House coincides with Fire Prevention Week, an annual public observance sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association. The purpose is to promote fire safety and prevention in an effort to reduce fire-related injuries and deaths.

Fire Prevention Week always takes place the week that includes Oct. 9, which commemorates the Great Chicago Fire. For 2025, Fire Prevention Week runs from Sunday, Oct. 5, to Saturday, Oct. 11.

Schedule activities include:

* Mini Firefighter Obstacle Course: Crawl, carry hoses and knock down flames.

* Hose Target Practice: Spray water at a "burning building" target.

* Bucket Brigade Relay: Team up to pass water buckets down the line.

* Stop, Drop and Roll Races: Learn a life-saving skill while having fun.

* Escape Plan Maze: Find two ways out of a "house" floor plan.

* Guess the Gear Weight: Try on real gear and feel how heavy it is.

* Junior Firefighter Photo Opportunity: Dress up and snap a picture with fire trucks.

In addition to these activities, participants will have the opportunity to meet the local firefighters, take a tour of the station and see the fire trucks and equipment up close. Fire-safety tips and resources will also be available.

"We will also collect non-perishable food items to benefit Christian Neighbors and clothing donations to support the First Baptist Church of Plainwell," Callahan said.

And if you get hungry during the event, Army Dog food truck will be on hand, offering hot dogs and other items for sale.

Lifelong Learners offers several events for fall

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

The Lifelong Learners group recently held its first event for the 2025-26 schedule.

The group, which is run by the Plainwell Community Education Department and open to all senior citizens in the Plainwell and Otsego area who are "looking to get involved and active in the community," took a trip to the Allegan County Fair on Tuesday, Sept. 9.

The fair visit coincided with Senior Day, with tickets costing $5.

That was the first of four fall events, with one more in September, one in October and one in November.

On Wednesday, Sept. 24, Lifelong Learners will host a donuts and coffee get together from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Plainwell Field House hospitality room. In addition to the donuts and coffee, attendees are encouraged to check out the district's new pool, gymnasium and indoor walking track.

There is no cost for this event and no registration is required.

A trip to Gull Meadow Farms in Richland is slated for Wednesday, Oct. 22. Time is to be determined, but participants can expect to be at the farm for one-and-a-half to two hours.

Cost is $11, and a minimum of 15 people are required to participate.

The agenda for Gull Meadow Farms includes enjoying pre-picked apples, a scenic wagon ride, farm talk, daytime activities, a pumpkin tour and cider & donuts.

Those interested in attending are asked to contact Anne at (269) 685-5823 to RSVP.

Finally, on Wednesday, Nov. 19, Lifelong Learners will head to the Christkindl Market in Grand Rapids. The bus is scheduled to leave Plainwell Community Schools at 10 a.m.

As with the Gull Meadow Farms event, those wishing to attend are asked to RSVP.

B SECTION

The Allegan County News & Union Enterprise

SPORTS

First Place 2012 NNA Better Newspaper Contest — Award-winning Newspaper — Best Sports Column

Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025

Martin's Conley takes top honors at Fennville Open

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

FENNVILLE—Martin junior Veyda Conley continued the strong start to her cross country season at the Fennville Open on at Fenn Valley Winery on Saturday, Sept. 6.

Finishing with a time of 19:44, Conley collected the win to lead the Clippers to a third-place finish with 67 points.

Martin was only one point behind Niles, while Edwardsburg won the event with 63 points. Fennville placed fourth with 93 points, while Allegan was seventh with 144 points.

"Veyda ran a strong race," Martin coach Kristin Evers said. "She has had a lot of success early in the season, setting a new school record already a couple of weeks ago."

Allison Rodgers (11th at 23:17), DuRae Sage (17th at 23:50), Riley Bender (19th at 23:54) and Sara Schipper (20th at 23:57) also scored for Martin.

"The team was very competitive," Evers said. "Allie Rodgers is a strong, consistent second runner on the team with freshman Riley Bender solidifying herself in our top five.

"One strength we have is that our second through fifth runners tend to finish with very little time between them. One goal we have as a team is to move one or two runners into the gap between our first and second runners."

Fennville junior Isabelle Sliter placed runner-up with a time of 20:10.

Also scoring for the Blackhawks were Nidia Villalobos (18th at 23:50), Marisol Diaz (23rd at 23:59), Samantha Giles (25th at 24:07) and Martiza Rosas (30th at 24:51).

Senior Jayden VanDenAkker led Allegan, placing fifth at 22:00.

"I really pleased with Jayden finishing fifth," Allegan coach Paula Chalupa said. "I can't wait to see what she can do when she gets into shape."

In the boys race, Allegan had the best team showing, placing sixth with 141 points. Fennville and Martin tied for seventh with 176 points, but the Blackhawks got the seventh place and the Clippers finished eighth based on the finish of each team's sixth runner.

Individually, Allegan junior Kellen Chalupa led the way for area teams by placing seventh at 17:07. Freshman teammate Thomas Sigler joined him in the top 10, placing 10th at 17:55.

Jaciel Ruiz led Fennville with a 17th-place finish at 18:55, while Martin's Jadon Dettman (20th at 18:56) and Gari Salvador-Garcia (23rd at 19:16) also placed in the top 30.

"This is the first summer that we have had a group of runners putting in dedicated miles week in and week out," Evers said of the Martin boys team. "We are starting to see the benefits of this.

"Jadon Dettmann has become a consistent, first runner for the team. His times are trending down, and he is running the 18's for the first time."

Fennville's Isabelle Sliter (left) and Martin's Veyda Conley compete at the Fennville Open. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Blackhawks post comeback victory over Trailblazers

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

FENNVILLE—The volleyball match between archrivals Fennville and Saugatuck didn't start exactly the way Blackhawks coach Rebecca Hughes had hoped.

Saugatuck took an early lead in the opening game and never looked back in securing the 25-17 win.

"The rivalry between Fennville and Saugatuck always brings a heightened mental intensity to this match," Hughes said. "In our pre-game huddle, I addressed this directly. I told the girls, 'I know this is Saugatuck, and I know we tend to get in our heads when we play them. But I also know what you're capable of, so go out there and play the way I know you can.'

"Despite that message, we struggled in the first set."

But the remainder of the match went much better for the Blackhawks, who regrouped to win the next three games and claim the 17-25, 25-22, 25-21, 25-17 victory.

"I think several factors contributed to our slow start," Hughes said. "We hadn't played a match in over a week, we had only two practices since the break and both our outside hitter and setter are rehabbing shoulder injuries.

"But give credit to Saugatuck. They played scrappy defense and made us work hard to put the ball away."

When it came to putting the ball away, Lily Achterhof led the charge for Fennville.

Achterhof finished with a team-best seven kills. She also led the way with 13 digs and seven aces—she served 100 percent—to go with three assists.

Ceeley Howard and MacKenzie McIlwain added five and four kills, respectively, while Marynn Winne chipped in with three.

Winne also had nine digs, Howard had five digs and McIlwain had nine digs and 21 assists.

"I'm really proud of the girls for their resilience and perseverance," Hughes said. "They may have started slow, but they dug in, stayed focused and earned the win."

First-year Saugatuck coach Christina Lewis was also pleased with the effort she received from her team.

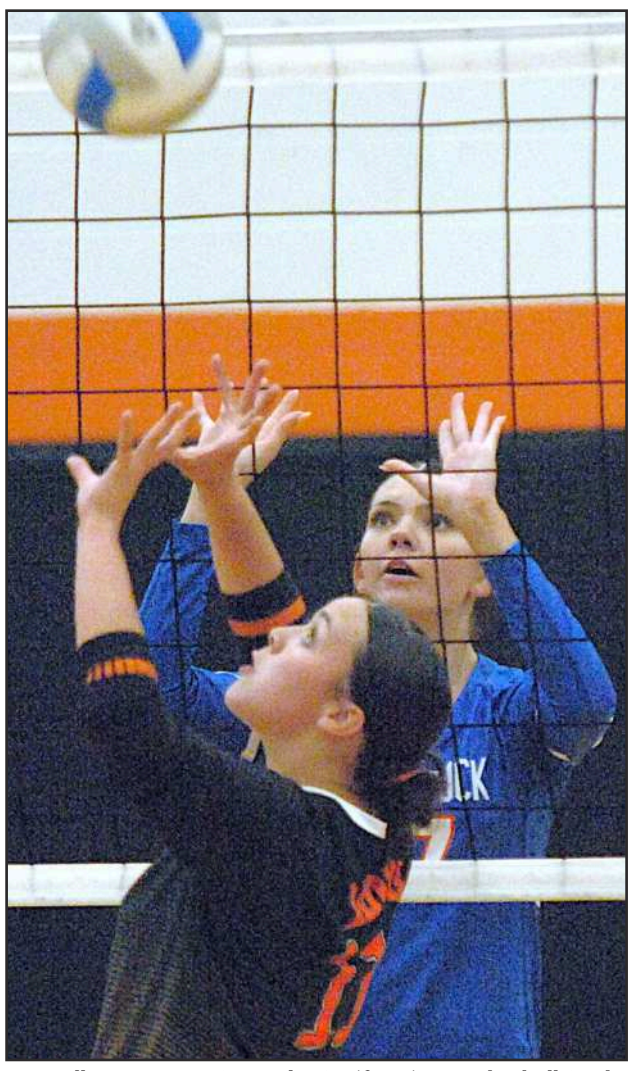
"Overall, I'm really proud of how we played," she said. "The girls are coming together and working as a true unit.

"All week we focused on refining our individual positions and communicating to help everything align, and that really showed on the court. The girls played hard and kept their energy up the entire game. Unfortunately, we just weren't able to seal the deal with a win."

Natalia Laskowski and Ashlyn O'Neill tied for team-high honors with six kills, followed by Emma Gosler and Jocelyn Johnson with three each. Laskowski also had a team-topping 17 digs, which was one better than Gabbie Cochran's 16.

Jocelyn Johnson served up three aces, with Penny Grob and Emma Gosler each finishing with two.

"Once again, freshman Gabbie Cochran anchored the back row with stellar defense, and freshman Jocelyn Johnson is beginning to shine as a middle hitter, adding excellent serving as well," Lewis said.



Fennville's MacKenzie McIlwain (front) sets the ball in the match with Saugatuck. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Fennville soccer wins

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

FENNVILLE—Ethan Coffindaffer led the offensive charge for the Fennville boys soccer team when it hosted Buchanan on Monday, Sept. 8.

Coffindaffer had a pair of goals as the Blackhawks prevailed 4-1.

Angel Villalobos and Chava Carranza also scored one goal and assisted on another. Alex Salinas and Jared Delgado chipped in with one assist each.

Fennville also beat Berrien Springs, securing a 2-0 victory at home on Thursday, Sept. 4.

Villalobos starred for the Blackhawks, finishing with a goal and an assist. Josue Bahena accounted for the other goal, while Salinas picked up an assist.

Derek Arredondo made four saves in goal for the shutout.

Allegan tennis hosts Gary Ellis Invitational

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

The Allegan boys tennis team hosted the Gary Ellis Invitational on Saturday, Sept. 6, placing third in the four-team field with 10 points.

Unity Christian took top honors with 22 points, while Traverse City West was second with 12 points. Battle Creek Lakeview placed fourth with four points.

Allegan had to shuffle its lineup, with subs at No. 1, No. 2 and No. 4 doubles.

"We had a unique lineup, but we battled with the bigger schools and almost came away as runner-up," Allegan coach Damien Arthur said. "There were lots of positives from today, and we're looking forward to what we can do in our upcoming matches."

No. 2 singles Ezra Smith accounted for the Tigers' lone flight championship. He went 3-0, including a 4-6, 6-1, 14-12 marathon win over TC West.

No. 3 singles Carson Woodhams and No. 1 doubles Wesley Goodspeed/Oliver Burnett were flight runners-up.

On Thursday, Sept. 4, Allegan hosted South Haven and won 7-1.

The Tigers got singles wins from No. 1 Silas Neldon (6-7 (5), 6-4, 7-5), No. 2 Smith (4-6, 6-0, 6-1) and No. 3 Woodhams (6-2, 7-5).

Doubles wins for Allegan came from No. 1 Noah Kuebler/Ian Gaulke (6-1, 6-1), No. 2 Goodspeed/Burnett (6-0, 6-2), No. 3 Gage Mashburn/Charlie Morris (3-6, 6-4, 10-6) and No. 4 Sully Morgan/Noah Willett (6-2, 6-1).

Hamilton swim hosts Otsego, Allegan

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

HAMILTON—The Hamilton girls swim & dive team hosted Allegan and Otsego for a tri-meet on Thursday, Sept. 4.

The Hawkeyes posted wins over Otsego (124-54) and Allegan (136-31), while Otsego bested Allegan 109-44.

Hamilton took top honors in 10 of the 12 events. Those wins came from: the 200 yard medley relay team of Marisa Patmos, Billie Lucas, Adi Garvelink and Paige Kleinheksel (2:05.78); the 200 free relay team of Kleinheksel, Nora VandenBerg, Keira Volkers, Alyssa Volkers (1:48.01); the 400 free relay team of Keira Volkers, Alyssa Volkers, VandenBerg and Garvelink (4:01.94); Alyssa Volkers in the 200 free (2:01.4) and the 500 free (5:27.44); Garvelink in the 200 IM (2:27.54) and the 100 breaststroke (1:15.21); Keira Volkers in the 50 free (26.59) and the 100 free (58.88); and Josi Popma in diving (226.05).

Otsego had the other two event wins, as Hope Stender won the 100 fly (1:05.28) and Aubrey Smith won the 100 back (1:10.07).

The Bulldogs also had seven runner-up finishes.

"It was a great meet for us," Otsego coach Darryl Belton said. "We are young and inexperienced, but the girls are working very hard and everything seems to be coming together.

"The leadership has been great and my captains—Hope Stender, Bella Xenos, Laney Sweet and Alyssa Long—have been fantastic.

"All three of our divers were awesome Thursday and this was their first competition. I really believe that this team is going to be handful by the end of the season."

For Allegan, Eliza DeLaet had the best showing, placing second in the 100 fly (1:05.97) and third in the 200 IM (2:34.24).

Martin volleyball team picks up victories

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

KALAMAZOO—The Martin volleyball team traveled to Comstock High School for a quad meet on Tuesday, Sept. 2, and came home with a 2-1 record.

The Clippers beat Bloomingdale (25-17, 25-13) and West Michigan Aviation (25-15, 25-19), with a loss to Comstock (20-25, 25-21, 25-20) sandwiched in between.

"Our goal is always competing with the competition," Martin coach Shannon Goddard said. "We struggled with serve receive a little bit during the Comstock match and that unfortunately is all it took to throw us off a little."

Torryn Harris had 37 assists to pace Martin, while Mackenzie Schwartz led with 20 kills and was tied for second with 14 digs. Anna Jager, Kendra Goddard and Marybeth Ritchie led in the serving department with 12, 10 and nine aces, respectively.

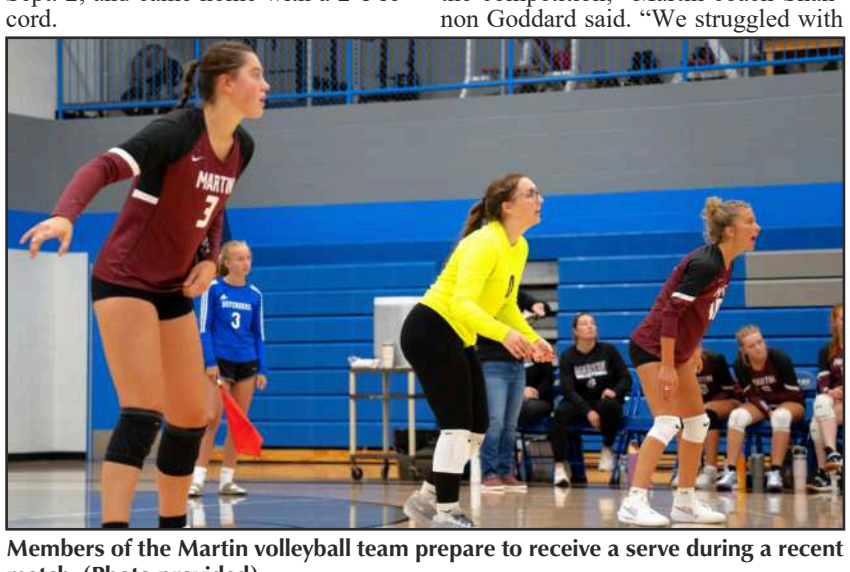
Martin headed to Lawton on Thursday, Sept. 4, and posted a 25-16, 25-19, 25-15 win.

"We played from behind in all three sets, showing the grit we have to not give up," Shannon Goddard said.

Schwartz led with nine kills, while Harris had 17 assists and Kendra Goddard had 12 digs.

Two days later, the Clippers participated in Ottawa Hills Tournament and placed second out of 12 teams with a 5-2 record.

"Our coaches are extremely proud of these girls and their drive to come back multiple times throughout the day to pull the win out and they're eager to play these bigger schools to push themselves," Shannon Goddard said.



Members of the Martin volleyball team prepare to receive a serve during a recent match. (Photo provided)

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ATHLETE of the WEEK

Luke Filkins
Plainwell
Football

Plainwell senior quarterback Luke Filkins has his team off to a strong start this season.

The Trojans improved to 2-0 following a win over Galesburg-Augusta on Friday, Sept. 5. Filkins played a big role in the victory, going 6-of-8 passing for 145 yards and a touchdown to go with a pair of rushing TDs.

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Girls Cross Country Season Preview

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

ALLEGAN

Allegan senior Jayden VandenAkker has made a name for herself as a hurdler on the track team, as she has multiple All-State performances to her credit.

But she's also a strong distance runner, as evidenced by her contributions to the Allegan cross country team the past two years.

"I'm hoping she can make improvements this year, stay healthy and be a contender for state meet," Allegan coach Paula Chalupa said.

VandenAkker leads a small squad for the Tigers.

"I am happy to have six girls on the team and to be able to compete as a team," Chalupa said.

Fellow returning seniors Isabella Giovannucci and Hydee Herron join VandenAkker on the team.

"Bella is a tough runner that is always battling a hip injury," Chalupa said. "I see great things for her if she can stay healthy.

"Hydee brings great personality to the team and is a hard worker. I am happy she is competing her senior year."

Sophomore Anna Billman—called a "gutsy runner" by Chalupa—rounds out the returning athletes.

Seniors Kylee Jaco and Jenna Johnson are new to the team.

"Kylee and Jenna have never run competitively, but are very strong and accomplished dancers," Chalupa said. "Their positive attitudes and smiles are very welcomed on the team."

MARTIN

Last year marked a milestone for Martin, as the girls team placed second at regionals to qualify for the Division 4 State Finals for the first time in program history.

With several key contributors from last year back along with some talented newcomers, Martin coach Kristin Evers is hoping for more of the same this year.

"Building on what we did last year, we have goals this year to be a top contender in the SAC and also improve on our 16th place finish at the state meet," Evers said.

Junior Veyda Conley leads the charge for the Clippers. The fastest runner in program history, Conley is looking to repeat her All-State performance from a year ago.

Also back are fellow juniors Kayden Jager and Sara Schipper along with sophomores Allison Rodgers and Durae Sage.

"We only had one varsity runner graduate last year, so a lot of our team members are returning," Evers said. "That includes Veyda, who has been All-State the last two years."

The freshmen duo of Riley Bender and Emma Dettmann join senior exchange student Alice Kadlecova as the newcomers.

It's a group Evers believes has the potential to be very good.

"The SAC is a large and competitive conference," Evers said. "We finished sixth at the conference championship last year. We would like to improve on that and feel like that is an obtainable goal."

Conley was First-Team All-Conference last year, while Rodgers was All-Conference Honorable Mention.

Camryn Sixberry (front) and Lyvia Curtis (back) return for Saugatuck. (File photo)

OTSEGO

Otsego enters the season with a streak of 12 consecutive Wolverine Conference championships and four straight regional titles.

With 10 returning runners—including senior Emma Hoffman, who has twice finished runner-up at the State Finals—back to go with a group of talented freshmen, Otsego coach Steve Long sees no reason why those streaks can't continue.

"This is a really fun group of girls," he said. "They work hard, have a lot of fun and have high goals. We'll look to continue our streak conference championships and win a fifth consecutive regional crown and we want to be in that conversation for a state title."

Senior Rebekah Stachura joins Hoffman as a returning athlete, as do juniors Skylar Mejeur, Sydney Timmons, Makenna Leonard and Maddie Goodwin and sophomores Ava Bentley, Zayla Clark and Sydney Miller.

"Coming off an undefeated track season, Emma leading the way for us is a huge advantage," Long said. "And we're 7-8-9 runners deep. This is a hard-working group that likes to have fun."

In the conference, Long views Sturgis and Plainwell as other strong teams.

"This is a really fun group of girls," Long said. "Even if we don't win any meets, it's going to be a really fun year."

PLAINWELL

Staying healthy.

That, according to Plainwell coach Brett Beier, is his team's biggest goal for the season.

"We don't have the depth this year that we've had in the past—having graduating three of the top seven last year—so keeping everyone on the course is goal number one this season," he said.

Despite the losses to graduation, the Trojans do have seven returning runners this season. That includes sophomore Mai Nguyen and senior Josie Longcore, who were state qualifiers last year.

"While we lost some valuable girls to graduation, we have a very strong core back, including Mai and Josie," Beier said. "We also have an amazing team leader in Gwen Todd, who has helped spearhead our summer workouts for the past couple summers."

Todd joins Longcore as the team's seniors.

Also back are juniors Brooke Carpenter and Megan VanDyke along with sophomores Molly Bruggink and Samantha Corbin.

Freshman Fiona Ryan and exchange student Franka Meier round out the roster.

It's a group Beier believes has the ability to finish in the top half of the Wolverine Conference standings.

"As always—I've said this every season I've coached—Otsego is the team to beat, not just in the conference, but they should be in the running for a state title as well," Beier said. "Sturgis is also going to be tough, and the experience their girls got in winning a state title in track in the spring is going to be valuable.

"I feel like we should slot in around the second to fourth spots, with Edwardsburg showing some strong results early this season."

SAUGATUCK

Saugatuck enters the season with high expectations.

"As long as we can all stay healthy and focused, our goals are to win the SAC, win our region and do some damage in the top three at the (Division 4) State Finals," Saugatuck coach Angelina Bauer said.

"The competition will be very tough, but this team has put into the work, so we are taking things one week at a time and just trying to enjoy the ride. Any successes will be a byproduct of their hard work and teamwork."

A group of five returning runners leads the way for the Trailblazers.

Senior Alina Martinson joins juniors Lyvia Curtis and Kamryn Sixberry as well as sophomores Stella Blubaugh and Rain Kalleward to comprise that group.

"This team has worked their butts off, led by Lyvia, Kamryn, Savanah and Alina," Bauer said. "We are looking forward to seeing what we can really do."

Senior Savanah VanDenBerg, sophomore Kayden Birkholz and the freshmen trio of Ryann Monroe, Ellyse Heyser and Abbey Gorman add depth.

"We have one of the strongest veteran groups we have ever seen, but we also have a very new team as well," Bauer said. "We are half and half—exactly half are experienced cross country athletes and exactly half are new to high school cross country."

Otsego's Emma Hoffman is seen at last year's Division 2 State Finals. (File photo)

It's a group Bauer hopes can get Saugatuck back to the top of the SAC standings for the first time in four years.

Prior to that, the Trailblazers had won 13 straight league crowns.

"Gobles and Kalamazoo Hackett will be looking pretty tough, but we're looking to reclaim a title this year," Bauer said.

"We have big goals but have committed to living in the moment and enjoying our journey together while keeping our end goals in mind."

WAYLAND

As she enters her first season as head coach in Wayland, Nikki Hoogewind knows there will be a learning curve for her team.

Of the seven runners on the roster, five are new to the sport.

Rather than view this lack of experience as a negative, however, Hoogewind is instead choosing to focus on the potential each of her runners possesses.

"We are luck to have five athletes who are new to the sport of cross country join the team this season," she said. "We are enjoying their talents and training hard."

That hard work is already paying dividends, as the Wildcats finished third in the first conference jamboree on Sept. 4.

"We're looking to continue to improve our times as the season progresses," Hoogewind said.

With the majority of the team new to running, the two team members with previous experience will be relied on to provide leadership and support.

Sophomore Abree VanDenBing is back after a solid freshman season, while freshman Maddie Bumhoffer is making the jump from middle school to high school.

The other team members are senior Ryleigh Haveman, juniors Marissa Ainsworth and Ashlee Weesaw, sophomores Sophia Miller and freshman Elyana Jurkowski.

"The season goal is for the girls to be in the top half of the conference and continue to improve individual times," Hoogewind said.

NOTE: *No preview information was received from Fennville, Hamilton or Hopkins prior to deadline.*

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alleganeyecare.com

Elizabeth V. Bauer
Attorney at Law
128 East Bridge St., Plainwell
Ramsey & Bauer
elizabeth@ramseybauer.net
ph: 269-685-6883
fax: 269-685-2631
ramseybauer.net

Trailblazers cruise to win

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

SAUGATUCK—Following a season-opening loss to Buchanan, the Saugatuck football was hoping to break into the win column when it hosted Lakeview on Friday, Sept. 5.

Mission accomplished.

The Trailblazers scored early and often in cruising to the 40-6 victory to even their record at 1-1.

"All the credit to my coaching staff," Saugatuck coach Bill Dunn said. "They did a great job in preparing the team for this game."

Saugatuck was firing on all cylinders on both sides of the ball. The Trailblazers racked up nearly 300 rushing yards and 60 passing yards from quarterback Walt Bos, while they limited Lakeview to 51 rushing yards and 113 total yards.

"We had a clean offensive game with no turnovers and good execution up front, with hard running from our backs," Dunn said. "The offense did a nice job of controlling the ball and moving the chains down the field.

Saugatuck ended the half on a high note, as Bos hooked up with Jack Drummond for a 52-yard touchdown with less than a minute to go in the second quarter.

Bos, whose other completion went to Max Page for nine yards, also ran for 29 yards and one touchdown on five carries.

Page spearheaded the running attack, piling up 164 yards and two touchdowns on 19 carries. That was good for an average of 8.6 yards per carry.

Will Soule added 75 yards and one TD on 11 carries.

"All the backs were very efficient, and that's a credit to the offensive line upfront," Dunn said.

Dante Holley converted on four of his five extra-point attempts.

Nolan LaLonde led the defensive charge with 10 tackles, followed by Drummond with seven and AJ Gosler with five.

"We did a nice job of controlling the line scrimmage and limiting the big play," Dunn said. "We're looking to carry the momentum to next week at Brandywine."

The game with Brandywine on Friday, Sept. 12, will be Saugatuck's first road contest of the season. Brandywine will enter the game at 0-2 following a home loss to Hartford (52-8) in Week 1 and 32-31 defeat on the road to Watervliet in Week 2.

Jack Drummond had a TD catch in Saugatuck's win. (Photo by Scott Sullivan)

Saugatuck soccer ties

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

SAUGATUCK—On Monday, Sept. 8, the Saugatuck boys soccer team faced a tough challenge as they hosted a South Haven team that came in as an Honorable Mention selection in the most recent Division 3 rankings.

And while the Trailblazers weren't quite able to get a win, they didn't suffer a loss, either.

The teams battled to a 1-1 tie, moving Saugatuck's record to 6-2-1.

Dante Holley accounted for the Saugatuck goal, with the assist going to Nicoli Vinten-Johansen.

On Wednesday, Sept. 3, the Trailblazers traveled to Parchment and secured the 7-1 victory.

Holley was a one-man wrecking crew for Saugatuck, as he racked up five goals and one assist.

Charlie Robison accounted for the other two goals in addition to assisting on two of Holley's tallies.

Tommy Bullinger added one assist.

Allegan soccer beats host Constantine

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

CONSTANTINE—Colby Bishop had quite an offensive performance for the Allegan boys soccer team in its road contest with Constantine on Monday, Sept. 8.

Bishop scored two goals and assisted on three others to lead the Tigers to the 9-1 win.

LJ Dial and Sawyer Wedge also played a role in multiple goals, with each scoring one and assisting on another.

"We had a lot of teamwork today and the kids passed the ball around well, finding their space and punching a lot of balls up and through," Allegan coach Andy Bishop said.

On Saturday, Sept. 6, Allegan played a pair of games, losing 3-1 to Kalamazoo Home School and beating Our Lady of the Lake 5-0.

Donnie Allen scored three times against Our Lady of the Lake, while Fritz Thede and Colby Bishop each scored once. Leland McKellips accounted for the lone goal against Kalamazoo Home School.

"It was a good day to see a lot of players get playing time and show everyone what they can do as individuals and a team," Andy Bishop said.

Martin football rolls past Marcellus

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

MARTIN—Martin held its homecoming festivities when the football team hosted Marcellus for a gridiron showdown on Friday, Sept. 5.

And with senior quarterback Haylen Buell once again leading the charge, the Clippers gave the home crowd plenty to cheer about.

Buell racked up 186 yards of total offense and had a hand in four touchdowns as Martin secured the 44-14 victory to improve to 2-0.

Three of Buell's TDs came on the ground, while he hooked up with Weson Elkins for a passing touchdown.

As if his offensive production wasn't enough, Buell also racked up 11 tackles on defense. That was good enough to tie Isaac Suk and Seth Toris for best on the team.

Despite the final score, Martin coach Brad Blauvelt thought his team could have executed better in the first half.

"We played much better in the second half," he said. "But we have some things to tighten up this week."

Blauvelt was especially pleased with the performance of the offensive line after halftime.

"I'm proud of the offensive line in the second half," Blauvelt said. "Those guys really took over the game, anchored by Peyton Schuring Harris and James Gruber."

Elkins finished with a pair of receptions for the night, amassing a total of 45 yards.

Toris teamed with Buell to spearhead the running game. Toris ran for 89 yards on 12 carries, with one of those carries resulting in a touchdown.

In addition to his tackles, Suk also had two sacks and a forced fumble on defense. Anderson Keeler added eight tackles, while Hartley Branch chipped in with seven stops to help keep Marcellus off balance offensively.

The Clippers will try to improve to 3-0 when they host Holton on Friday, Sept. 12, marking Martin's third straight home game to open the season. Holton comes in at 0-2 following losses to Colon and Coleman.

After the Holton game, the Clippers will hit the road for three consecutive games (Gobles on Sept. 19, Eau Claire on Sept. 26 and Muskegon Heights Oct. 3) before returning home against Sacred Heart Academy on Friday, Oct. 10.

Otsego girls golf wins pair of league jamborees

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

BUCHANAN—The Niles-hosted Wolverine Conference girls golf jamboree at Orchard Hills took place on Monday, Sept. 8.

And as has been the case in the previous two league competitions, it was Otsego that came out on top.

The Bulldogs posted a score of 193, while Plainwell was second at 207.

Otsego's Avery Selent earned medalist honors with a 38. Plainwell's Alya Jaeger was close behind in second place.

Otsego's Annika Quakenbush tied for third, while teammate Malania Miller secured a tie for sixth. Plainwell's Emma Rayman also made it into the top 10, placing ninth.

On Wednesday, Sept. 3, Sturgis hosted a jamboree at Island Hills, with Otsego posting a winning score of 178 and Plainwell placing second at 187.

Jaeger led the field with an impressive even-par round of 36. Selent finished close behind in second with a 38, highlighted by an eagle on the final hole.

Quakenbush placed third, while Otsego's Malania Miller tied for fifth. Also in the top 10 were Plainwell's Sam LaBonte and Addison Lyke, who tied for eighth.

Football results:

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Allegan 27 Delton 22

Brandon Thrash and Landen Geddes formed quite a one-two punch for Allegan in the Tigers' home opener against Delton on Friday, Sept. 5.

Thrash ran for 151 yards and two touchdowns on 27 carries, while Geddes passed for 135 yards and one TD to lead Allegan to the 27-22 win.

With the victory, the Tigers evened their record at 1-1.

"This game was full of big plays offensively and dominant physical play on defense," Allegan coach Tony Danzig said. "We proved we can move the ball on the ground and in the air."

The Tigers found themselves down throughout most of the game before Thrash scored his second touchdown in the fourth quarter. That score was set up by a 79-yard reception by Bradyn Kosiorowski.

"While trailing Delton the entire game, the team never gave up," Danzig said. "This team has a never-quit attitude, and it showed all game long. Hats off to Delton for a great high school football game."

Kosiorowski had three catches for 115 yards and one TD.

On defense, Dylan Ritsema and Sullivan Garvin tied for a team high in tackles with nine. Kosiorowski added seven tackles with a fumble recovery.

Hopkins 42 Parchment 8

If you mention the name "Justin VanWagner" to Parchment's defensive coordinator, he just might break into a cold sweat.

And for good reason.

VanWagner torched the Parchment defense to the tune of 206 yards and three touchdowns on just 12 carries—an average of more than 17 yards per carry—to lift Hopkins to the 42-8 victory.

The win upped the Vikings' record to 2-0.

VanWagner didn't wait long to set the tone for the game, racing 50 yards for a first-quarter touchdown. He added a pair of scoring runs in the second quarter, the first covering 40 yards and the second from seven yards out.

Blake Schwartz (15-yard run in the second quarter), Brayden Harnish (18-yard run in the third quarter) and Matthew Guzman (3-yard run in the third quarter) also found the end zone for Hopkins.

Cruz Hitzler finished with 76 yards on eight carries, while Harnish added 58 yards on eight carries and quarterback Merek Zapolnik contributed 42 yards on 11 carries.

Zapolnik added 23 passing yards on 3-of-5 accuracy. Schwartz caught two of those passes for seven yards, while Blake Hyma had one catch for 16 yards.

Henry Teunissen racked up a team-best six tackles. He also had one sack and one tackle for loss, as did Colin Gibson.

Hyma added a fumble recovery and Austin Schaendorf came up with an interception.

Plainwell 34 Galesburg-Augusta 20

After finishing with one win in each of the past two seasons, the Plainwell football team had a chance to surpass that win total when it traveled Galesburg-Augusta on Friday, Sept. 5.

The Trojans did just that.

Led by three touchdowns from quarterback Luke Filkins, Plainwell earned the 34-20 victory to improve to 2-0 for the first time since 2022.

Third-year Plainwell coach Brian Huberty knows how big the win was for his players.

"It was really important to come out of week 1 and 2 with wins that build momentum for our program," he said. "Our kids have worked really hard and to see the fruit of that work is important."

Filkins finished the game 6-of-8 passing for 145 yards, including a touchdown to Chib Amaezechi. Filkins also had two rushing touchdowns as part of a 58-yards-on-12-carries effort.

Amaezechi finished with 80 yards on three catches to go with one carry that resulted in a 70-yard touchdown.

Cameron Larsen added a team-best 98 yards and one touchdown on seven carries.

On the defensive side, Aiden Beck led the way for Plainwell with 7.5 tackles. Drew Rayman had two tackles and two interceptions, while Grayson Nash had a fumble recovery.

"This is a good start for us," Huberty said. "Now, we're looking forward to hosting a really tough Vicksburg team this week."

Plainwell will host 1-1 Vicksburg on Friday, Sept. 12. Vicksburg won its opener against Mattawan (41-14) at home, before dropping a road decision to Northview (23-21).

Fennville 14 NorthPointe Christian 42

An early deficit proved too much for the Fennville football team to overcome in its road game against NorthPointe Christian on Friday, Sept. 5.

The Blackhawks fell behind 28-0 early in the second quarter and ultimately dropped the game 42-12 to slip to 1-1 for the season.

The final two-and-a-half quarters went much better for Fennville, which matched NorthPointe with 14 points during that span.

"This was a tough-fought loss to a good, physical NorthPointe team," Fennville coach Wendell Hughes Sr. said. "I'm proud of the way we fought to the final whistle."

Carter Thompson accounted for Fennville's first touchdown, finding Gavin Kempker on an 8-yard pass midway through the second quarter. Thompson made good on the ensuing 2-point conversion run to make the score 28-8 in favor of NorthPointe.

Later in the same quarter, Blackhawk Jayden Sneller intercepted a pass and raced 40 yards to the end zone to make it 35-14.

Thompson went 11-of-19 passing for 94 yards to go with a team-best 57 rushing yards on 13 carries. Ashton Halcomb had 40 yards on three catches, while Ely Schut hauled in four passes for 37 yards.

Halcomb and Schut also led the defense with 10 and nine respective tackles.

"We'll learn from this and regroup to get ready for next week," Hughes said.

The Blackhawks will travel to Bloomingdale on Friday, Sept. 12, to face the 0-2 Cardinals.

Hamilton 27 Middleville 28

Trailing by a single point with less than a minute to go in its home contest with Middleville on Friday, Sept. 5, first-year Hamilton football coach Zach Harbison had a decision to make.

Go for one and the tie to force overtime, or go for two and the win?

Harbison opted for choice two, but the conversion attempt failed as Middleville hung on for the 28-27 victory at the Hawkeyes' expense.

Hamilton found itself behind 28-21 before quarterback Hudsen Hulst hooked up with Brooks Hawkins on a 35-yard touchdown with 47 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter.

Hawkins finished with two TDs, as he also scored on the ground earlier in the game. Hulst also had a scoring pass to Brett Schrotenboer, giving Hulst two TDs through the air.

On the defensive end, Carter Hickock had an interception returned for a touchdown for Hamilton.

The Hawkeyes, who fell to 0-2, will hope to break into the win column on Friday, Sept. 12, when they host Union, also 0-2. Union's losses came to Zeeland West (34-8 on Aug. 28) and Okemos (7-6 on Sept. 5).

Both of Union's first two games were on the road.

Hot 'n Now returns to Wayland: burger chain begins revival in West Michigan

By Andrea Philipp

Hot 'n Now, the once-prominent fast-food chain known for its 39-cent burgers and streamlined drive-thru model, is making a comeback—beginning in Wayland. The long-dormant brand, once a staple of Michigan's fast-food landscape, is returning with a renewed focus on affordability, nostalgia, and efficiency.

The new Wayland location, located at 1146 129th Avenue across from Gun Lake Casino, is expected to open in October 2025. The project is being led by HNN Holdings LLC, a partnership between Gun Lake Investments—the economic development arm of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians (Gun Lake Tribe)—and Alpena-based developer Jeff Konczak.

"This isn't just a business opportunity; it's a cultural revival," said Monica King, CEO of Gun Lake Investments. "Hot 'n Now was once a beloved part of everyday life in Michigan, and we believe it can be again."

Hot 'n Now was founded in 1984 in Kalamazoo by entrepreneur William Van Domelen. The brand grew rapidly in the 1980s and early 1990s, reaching more than 100 locations across 15 states. Its signature features included a drive-thru-only structure, ultra-fast service, and rock-bottom prices. However, after a series of ownership changes—including a troubled acquisition by PepsiCo—the brand declined sharply. By the early 2000s, nearly all locations had closed, leaving just one remaining restaurant in Sturgis, Michigan.

Despite the decline, Hot 'n Now retained a loyal following across the Midwest. Internet forums and nostalgia blogs have kept the brand's memory alive, and local residents frequently mention favorites like the Olive Burger, Cheesy Taters, and the original crinkle-cut fries.

The new Wayland location has already been delivered and assembled. The 737-square-foot structure was manufactured by B Cubed Manufacturing in Alpena and designed as a modular "plug-and-play" model. This modern version of the original layout features two drive-thru lanes, limited on-site parking, and no indoor dining—staying true to the brand's legacy of speed and minimalism.

Operating hours will be 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, with extended late-night service until 1 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

"We've designed the restaurant to maximize efficiency and affordability," said Jeff Konczak, who has been involved in real estate development across northern Michigan. "Every decision—from construction to staffing to pricing—was made with accessibility in mind."

The revived Hot 'n Now will continue its tradition of offering low-cost meals, though prices will be adapted for today's economy. Menu favorites will return, with the Olive Burger expected to headline offerings alongside Cheesy Taters, shakes, and fries. New menu items may be introduced based on customer feedback and local tastes.

"Affordability is central to our mission," said King. "We want to offer a menu that serves everyone, from college students and families to late-night workers looking for a quick bite."

The Wayland opening is part of a broader plan by Gun Lake Investments to redevelop the U.S. 131 corridor. This region is being reshaped through a mix of commercial, residential, and tribal investment. Hot 'n Now will serve as a flagship brand for this transformation, with the next confirmed location set to open in Alpena later this fall.

Local residents have expressed excitement about the brand's return. Many remember it as a go-to destination for after-school snacks, late-night meals, and weekend stops.

"It was never fancy," said longtime Wayland resident Dave Thompson. "But it was fast, cheap, and it hit the spot. I'm glad my kids will get to try it."

Retriever Fever: How dog-loving event empowers change

By Andrea Philipp

Every September, a wave of wagging tails, smiling faces, and community spirit descends upon West Michigan for a cause greater than fetch and belly rubs. The event? **Retriever Fever**—a high-energy, family-friendly celebration organized by **Paws With A Cause (PAWS)**.

While it's hosted in Grand Rapids, the impact of this beloved event stretches all the way to **Wayland**, where PAWS is proudly headquartered. More than a dog festival, Retriever Fever is a powerful reminder that even the smallest towns can play a big role in changing lives.

Retriever Fever takes place at Riverside Park and features a 5K run, a 1-mile fun walk, agility demos, vendor booths, games, raffles, and, of course, plenty of friendly retrievers. Attendees can choose sides in the annual "Team Labrador" vs. "Team Golden" fundraising competition, which adds some playful rivalry to the fundraising efforts.

At its heart, though, the event is a major fundraiser for Paws With A Cause, which trains and places custom assistance dogs with individuals who have physical disabilities, hearing loss, seizure disorders, or autism. The best part? These life-changing dogs are placed **at no cost** to the client.

Wayland residents don't have to look far to see the impact of Retriever Fever. **Paws With A Cause operates its national training center in Wayland.** Dogs trained in the community go on to serve people across the country, helping them live more independent, empowered lives.

Now, with a **$9.5 million expansion project** underway to grow PAWS's Wayland campus, events like Retriever Fever are more important than ever. They raise the visibility and funding needed to train more dogs, serve more clients, and support more families.

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Peek at the Past

From the pages of The Allegan News and The Allegan County News and Gazette:

Sept. 11, 1950

Otsego youngsters hold 'stock car' races on cemetery hill: The fame of Roger Gilligan, one of the outstanding stock car racers and oft-time winner at the Chet Jones Speedway, the Allegan County Fair track and the B and K Speedways, has eeked into the veins of the young fry of the city and a soap box derby was hastily arranged one Saturday afternoon and staged on the road north of the city by Mountain Home Cemetery. It was complete with spectators, prizes and police protection.

When chief of police Carl Draper answered the phone, a very business-like voice from the other end of the line asked if police protection could be arranged for a soap box derby.

"Sure," Draper obligingly assured her. And he asked for her address that he might talk over the situation personally, for better results.

When he arrived at the home, he asked for the young lady who was promoting a box car derby and when the mother pointed to her 11-year-old daughter, Charlene Jones, he was more than a little surprised to be confronted with such a young manager.

Sept. 11, 1975

Says Julie: 'I just had a ball': Miss Michigan 1975, Julie Beckers of Allegan, took back home with her from the Miss America Pageant many treasured memories and a $1,000 Dr. David Allman Memorial scholarship, which was presented to a pageant contestant who is pursuing a career in the medical field.

Julie, who ambition is to become a respiratory therapist, is a freshman at Ferris State College.

She was presented the scholarship at the Sunday awards brunch, the final pageant event which must be attended by contestants. She left the resort immediately afterward to drive home, taking with her an additional $500 scholarship for her participation in the Miss America Pageant.

Julie, in recalling the excitement of Pageant Week, said that one of the funniest things which happened to her here was while she was riding in the Miss America parade Tuesday night.

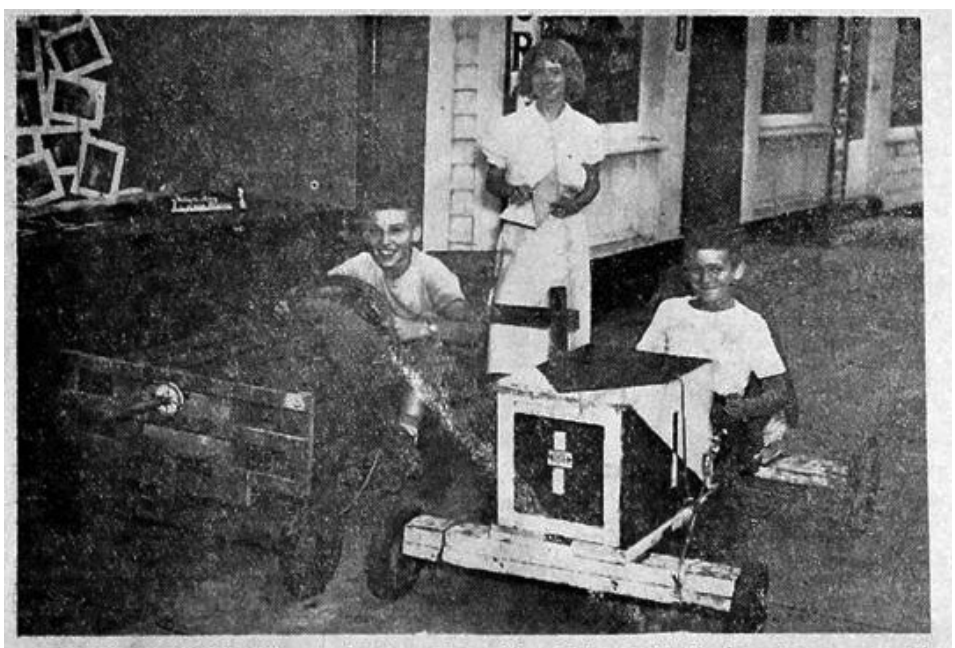
"I had my shoes off," she said. "And suddenly, in the quiet, a little voice called out, 'Miss Michigan, you'd better put on your shoes.' Everyone just roared. It was so funny."

Sept. 14, 2000

Photo chosen for book: An image of the three children of photographer Diane Sumner will be immortalized in a picture record of a landmark event. Judges from The Millennium Photo Project selected the image for the book "2000/How the World Celebrated."

Sumner took the picture of Tracy, 8, Tommy Lee, 6, and Travis, 3, at home at 12:03 p.m. on Dec. 31, 1999. The period of the photo contest lasted precisely one day from noon to noon.

"We could start at noon on New Year's Eve," Sumner said. "So these were the first shots I took in that 24-hour period."



OTSEGO'S YOUNGER SET — under the managership of 11-year-old Charlene Jones — recently began their own "stock car" racing program. The soap-box specials raced down cemetery hill for real cash prizes. Shown here are Irwin Henderson and Jerry Burd who tied for first place in the feature event. That's Charlene in the middle. —Davis Photo

A professional shutterbug who takes both studio portraits in her home and artistic subjects in nature, Sumner learned about the photo opportunity in the course of keeping up with her avocation.

"I was checking out contests over the Internet," she said. "I signed up for it. But I didn't know whether I was going to be nominated until I got a notice in late December."

The intent of the Millennium Photo Project, headquartered in Toronto, was to document worldwide the ticking of the clock from the Second Millennium's ending to the Third Millennium's beginning. Sumner acknowledged that many people believe the Second Millennium ends with the last second of Dec. 31, 2000. But spectacular celebrations of New Year's Day 2000 lit skies around the globe eight months ago.

Allegan was no exception.

Julie dancing to the music of "Also Sprach Zarathustra," better known as "2001: A Space Odyssey."

Sept. 10, 2020

77-year-old attorney skydives for first time: On Sunday August 30, 2020, the Antkoviak Law Office provided stress relief for its oldest and youngest employees in the form of free falling through the air at 125 mph for 5000 feet then parachuting another five thousand feet to a safe landing at Allegan's Padgham Field. Seventy-seven year old Attorney Peter Antkoviak II explained, "The view was spectacular and I would love to jump again," while legal assistant Matty McKellips (22), who never had been in a plane before, enjoyed every minute and jibbed, "I didn't think once about COVID-19 while I was free falling."

The adventure began as Antkoviak was standing in McKellips' office reading in a newspaper article about skydiving. He remarked to McKellips, "I would like to skydive before I pass." McKellips responded that she would like to also, to which Antkoviak said, "Book it." She did.

McKellip's first fear was that she had never been up in any kind of plane, but said, "Once we were up in the air, I was just excited." That is until they opened the door and 120 m/h wind came in, before they stepped out on the small jump platform.

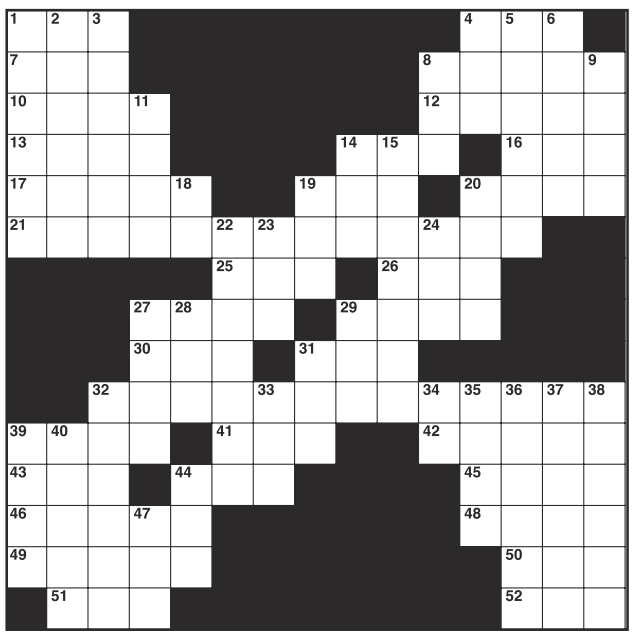
"We backflipped off the platform and did freefall for 30-45 seconds then the parachute opened. It was fantastic." They came down on the grass by the drop zone at the Allegan City Airport.

Antkoviak remembers standing in McKellip's office and making the offer. He was used to flying in small planes into Canada, but in this one, he had to sit on the floor with his knees up to his chest. "The inside of the plane was about 4 feet by 8 feet. The pilot had the only chair, and four of us were lined up down the plane."

"During the jump, I did not do much, and I had faith in the other person," Antkoviak shared. "It was difficult getting out of the plane because I had to reach out for the wing brace then step onto the platform. I was already attached to the instructor, and we rolled off the platform then stopped rolling after several rotations. The instructor got me situated for the freefall by moving my arms and legs out."

—Compiled by Jason Wesseldyk

Crossword



CLUES ACROSS
1. Utilitarian fashion accessory
4. Engine additive
7. Macaws
8. Listens to
10. Self-righteously moralistic person
12. Made of wood
13. Chinese lute
14. Beginning military rank
16. Indicates near
17. Ties the score
19. Chum
20. Long ago
21. Localities
25. Midway between northeast and east
26. Make fun of
27. Tennis great Arthur
29. Construction location
30. Cow's noise
31. Blue
32. One of the Fab Four
39. Formula 1 team
41. Dash
42. Lifting device
43. Basics
44. Keyboard key
45. Old Irish alphabet
46. Shaking of the Earth's surface
48. Covered stadium
49. Sword handles
50. Longing or yearning
51. Creators' social network
52. Boxing's GOAT

CLUES DOWN
1. Occur
2. Show up
3. Capital of Taiwan
4. Ocean
5. Givers and ___
6. Gets ready
8. Ad __
9. Fit of irritation
11. Criminal organization
14. Exclamation that denotes disgust
15. American state
18. Sensor hub
19. Before
20. The boundary of a surface
22. Witnesses
23. Singular
24. Type of meal
27. Music awards show
28. Former French coin of low value
29. A bag-like structure in an animal
31. Schenectady County Airport
32. Calm down
33. Partner to cheese
34. Cola brand
35. Stepped on
36. Japanese city
37. Type of coating
38. A citizen of Yemen
39. Popular breakfast item corned beef __
40. On a line at right angles to a ship's length
44. First responders
47. Short-term memory

■ see Solution, Page B7

Deaths

August 17, 2025

DANIEL A HARRINGTON, 92, Gun Plain Twp

August 22, 2025

DON THOMAS HOLLIS, 89, Holland

August 23, 2025

LARRY WAYNE HARNESS, 70, Otsego

STANLEY JOSEPH PAWLOSKI, 74, Dorr Twp.

JOYCE MATILDA THOMPSON, 93, Allegan Twp.

THEA LYNN KAETZEL, 59, Holland

August 24, 2025

ROGER PAUL GROENEWOUD, 72, Douglas

August 26, 2025

BEVERLY ELIZABETH HUFF, 93, Trowbridge Twp.

August 27, 2025

ROGER MERLE MASON, 83, Otsego Twp

Marriages

The following people applied for a marriage license between Aug. 26 and Sept. 3:

EDWARD THOMAS COLAIANNI, Holland, and **VICTORIA ROSE PROVO**, Holland

ERIN ELIZABETH GOLEMBIEWSKI, Plainwell, and **DAVID EUGENE MARKLE II**, Plainwell

JAXON RUGER FORD, Plainwell, and **GEORGIA MAE WALDRON**, Paw Paw

MARY ANNE WINTERS, Wayland, and **SCOTT MICHAEL LOTTERMAN**, Wayland

NOELLE TONI LOOMIS, Hamilton, and **GERRIT DREW KEMME**, Hamilton

ZOIE LEWIS DRIY, Holland, and **ROBERT JAY HAMBERG**, Holland

JAY THOMAS BRICE, Dorr, and **JASMIN JOY ELZINGA**, Dorr

YAZMINE ROSE SCHULTZ, Fennville, and **RORY DALE BESSINGER**, Dorr

MILDRED LOUISE DELANE DEWYER, Otsego, and **STEVEN MICHAEL HARRINGTON**, Otsego

BAILEY KAY COOPER, Plainwell, and **ZACHARY PAUL MEYERING**, Wayland

KELSIE ELIZABETH GRANT, Allegan, and **JUSTIN TYLER LEE LOPEZ**, Allegan

ETHAN MICHAEL SMITH, Allegan, and **LYLEE JANE NOON HOPKINS**, Allegan

ERIC ALAN RAMA, Allegan, and **KERRI NICOLE SLACK**, Allegan

JOSEPH ANTHONY FIRMISS, Saugatuck, and **ERIK WILLIAM LEE**, Saugatuck

BRAYDON PAUL COMMONS, Dorr, and **GLORIA ELIZABETH ZURHORST**, Dorr

SHAYLYNN LEE TOURANGEAU, Allegan, and **ANGEL MIGUEL RIVAS RIOS**, Allegan

STEPHEN THOMAS BOYD, Saugatuck, and **JENNIFER CHRISTINE DAVENPORT**, Saugatuck

SKYLAR RAYE STORA, Wayland, and **DANIEL JOHN ZUIDERVEEN**, Wayland

HECTOR APREZA VIDAL, Fennville, and **MICHELLE ENNETTE KLEEVES KING**, Fennville

SUDOKU

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2	7		9	8		5		
8					1	7		
9			4					
	2			6		1		
1				9		3		7
				5				8
	8	7			6		2	

(See Solution Page B7)

Public Notices

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, Michigan starting promptly at 9:00 a.m. on September 18, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Mortgage (the "Mortgage") made by Stacey Workman, a single woman, as Mortgagor to United Bank of Michigan, a Michigan banking corporation, dated March 14, 2025, and recorded on April 24, 2025, in Liber 5027, Page 846, Instrument No. 2025006302, recorded in Allegan County Records, Allegan County, Michigan. The balance owing on the Mortgage is $712,724.04 at the time of this Notice. The Mortgage contains a power of sale and no suit or proceeding at law or in equity has been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage, or any part of the Mortgage. The Mortgagee will apply the sale proceeds to the debt secured by the Mortgage as stated above, plus interest on the amount due at the rate of 6.875% per annum; all legal costs and expenses, including attorney's fees allowed by law; and also any amount paid by the Mortgagee to protect its interest in the property. The property to be sold at foreclosure is all of that real estate situated in the Township of Allegan, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, described as: Unit No. 31, Riverview Estates Condominium, according to the Master Deed recorded in Liber 2457 on Page 438 and re-recorded in Liber 2492 on Page 682 and amendments thereto (if any), and designated as Allegan County Condominium Subdivision Plan No. 189, together with rights in general common elements and limited common elements as set forth in above Master Deed, and as described in Act 59 of the Public Acts of 1978, as amended. APN #01-555-031-00 Commonly known as: 1663 Fairview Dr., Allegan, MI 49010 The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of sale pursuant to MCLA 600.3240(8), unless deemed abandoned and then pursuant to the time frames provided for in MCL 600.3241a. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. August 4, 2025 UNITED BANK OF MICHIGAN, Mortgagee PLUNKETT COONEY KELLI L. BAKER (P49960) Attorney for Mortgagee 333 Bridge Street NW, Suite 530 Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504 (616) 752-4624

(08-14)(09-11)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in ALLEGAN County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on October 2, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Ashley N. Rogers, an unmarried woman, whose address is 219 4th Street, Plainwell, Michigan 49080, as original Mortgagors, to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS NOMINEE FOR AMERFIRST FINANCIAL CORPORATION, being a mortgage dated April 1, 2022, and recorded on April 4, 2022 in Liber 4746 Page 448, Allegan County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated February 7, 2024 and recorded on February 7, 2024 in Liber 4919 Page 184, Allegan County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED FORTY-SIX AND 50/100 DOLLARS ($161,946.50). Said premises are situated in the Township of Gun Plain, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and are described as: PART OF THE SOUTHWEST ONE-QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST ONE-QUARTER OF SECTION 26, TOWN 1 NORTH, RANGE 11 WEST, GUN PLAIN TOWNSHIP, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN; COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 26; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 07 MINUTES 33 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SECTION 26. 412.50 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUING NORTH 00 DEGREES 07 MINUTES 33 SECONDS WEST ALONG SAID WEST LINE 198.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 59 MINUTES 47 SECONDS EAST 320.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 07 MINUTES 33 SECONDS EAST 198.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 59 MINUTES 47 SECONDS WEST 320.00 FEET TO THE WEST LINE OF SECTION 26 AND THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. Street Address: 219 4th Street, Plainwell, Michigan 49080 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: August 28, 2025 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 5955 West Main Street, Suite 509, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. Telephone: (312) 541-9710. File No.: MI 25 6642

(08-28)(09-18)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Saint Joseph County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on October 2, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Tammy Smith

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Freedom Mortgage Corporation

Date of Mortgage: October 23, 2006

Date of Mortgage Recording: November 16, 2006

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $77,146.08

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Constantine, Saint Joseph County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 1, Northpark, according to plat of record in the Office of the Register of Deeds for

St. Joseph County, Michigan in Liber 4 of Plats, Page 71.

Common street address (if any): 64517 US Highway 131 N, Constantine, MI 49042-9660

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: August 29, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1570528

(08-29)(09-19)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on October 2, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): James P. Huey and Betty A. Huey, husband and wife

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): VILLAGE CAPITAL & INVESTMENT LLC

Date of Mortgage: March 27, 2013

Date of Mortgage Recording: April 2, 2013

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $83,831.29

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of the Village of Douglas, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Part of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 21, Town 3 North, Range 16 West, Village of Douglas, Allegan County, Michigan, described as: Commencing at the North 1/4 corner of said Section; thence North 89 degrees 07 minutes 17 seconds East 1798.13 feet along the North line of said Section; thence South 00 degrees 57 minutes 13 seconds East 60.00 feet; thence North 89 degrees 07 minutes 17 seconds East 49.96 feet along the South right of way line of 130th Avenue to the point of beginning; thence South 00 degrees 57 minutes 13 seconds East 291.40 feet; thence North 89 degrees 07 minutes 17 seconds East 111.04 feet; thence North 00 degrees 57 minutes 13 seconds West (previously described as East) 291.40 feet; thence South 89 degrees 07 minutes 17 seconds West 111.04 feet along the South right of way of 130th Avenue to the point of beginning.

Common street address (if any): 173 Wiley Rd, Douglas, MI 49406-5169

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: August 28, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1570317

(08-28)(09-18)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in ALLEGAN County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on October 2, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Garrett Jon Heasley, single man, whose address is 4289 30th Street, Burnips, Michigan 49314, as original Mortgagors, to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS NOMINEE FOR NEIGHBORHOOD LOANS, INC., being a mortgage dated December 3, 2021, and recorded on December 9, 2021 in Liber 4706 Page 593 said mortgage was modified by a loan modification agreement, dated March 18, 2024, recorded April 4, 2024, Liber 4932 Page 41, Allegan County Records, State of Michigan and assigned by said mortgagee through mesne assignments to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated November 30, 2023 and recorded on December 14, 2023 in Liber 4909 Page 2, Allegan County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of NINETY-SIX THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIVE AND 02/100 DOLLARS ($96,935.02). Said premises are situated in the Township of Salem, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and are described as: COMMENCING 214.5 FEET SOUTH OF THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4; THENCE EAST 326.21 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 66 FEET; THENCE WEST 326.21 FEET; THENCE NORTH 66 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, SECTION 15, TOWN 4 NORTH, RANGE 13 WEST, SALEM TOWNSHIP, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN. Street Address: 4289 30th Street, Burnips, Michigan 49314 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: August 28, 2025 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 5955 West Main Street, Suite 509, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. Telephone: (312) 541-9710. File No.: MI 25 6652

(08-28)(09-18)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on October 2, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Michael E Northern and Deborah M. Matheson, husband and wife, as tenants by the entirety

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): ServBank, N.A. fka ServBank, SB

Date of Mortgage: July 23, 2018

Date of Mortgage Recording: July 30, 2018

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $251,619.55

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Charter Township of Gunplain, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Commencing at the Southeast corner of Section 7, Town 1 North, Range 11 West, thence South 86 degrees 28 minutes 37 seconds West along the South line of Section 7, 910.64 feet to the point of beginning; thence continuing South 86 degrees 28 minutes 37 seconds West along the South line of Section 7, 413.00 feet to the East 1/4 1/4 line of Section 7; thence North 02 degrees 59 minutes 40 seconds West along the East 1/4 1/4 of Section 7, 1321.47 feet to the South 1/4 1/4 of Section 7; thence North 86 degrees 25 minutes 50 seconds East along the South 1/4 1/4 of Section 7, 2.64 feet to the Southerly line of Consumers Energy, thence South 57 degrees 37 minutes 48 seconds East along said ROW line, 503.19 feet; thence South 02 degrees 59 minutes 40 seconds East parallel to the East 1/4 of Section 7, 1026.45 feet to the South line of Section 7 and the point of beginning.

Common street address (if any): 1041 108th Ave, Plainwell, MI 49080-9524

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: September 4, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1570853

(09-04)(09-25)

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - ALLEGAN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on October 16, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Christine M. Mosley, a single woman Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: October 19, 2007 Recorded on October 26, 2007, Liber 3172, on Page 743, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): The Huntington National Bank Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Forty-Five Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-Four and 44/100 Dollars ($45,454.44) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Allegan County, and described as: Commencing at the Southeast corner of the Southeast 1/4 Section 35, thence West 330 feet, thence North 264 feet, thence East 330 feet, thence South 264 feet to place of beginning. EXCEPT: Commencing at a point 165 feet North of the Southeast corner of the Southeast 1/4 as place of beginning, thence West 20 rods, thence North 99 feet, thence East 20 rods, thence South 99 feet to the place of beginning, Section 35, Town 2 North, Range 13 West. Commonly known as 1208 26th St, Allegan, MI 49010 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. The Huntington National Bank Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400

1571261

(09-04)(09-25)

NOTICE OF CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION LIEN FORECLOSURE SALE WHEREAS, default has been made in the terms and conditions of the Master Deed of Goshorn Lake Cottage Condominiums dated October 25, 2001, signed on October 25, 2001, and recorded on November 28, 2001, in Liber 2148, Page 692, et seq., Allegan County, Michigan, Register of Deeds, and any amendments thereto, and designated as Allegan County Condominium Subdivision Plan No. 157 (the "Master Deed"). Said default under the Master Deed has resulted in the recordation of a "Notice of Lien for Nonpayment of Assessments" by Goshorn Lake Cottage Condominium Association, said Notice of Lien for Nonpayment of Assessments being dated June 30, 2025, signed on June 30, 2025, and recorded on July 10, 2025, in Liber 5048, Page 716, Allegan County, Michigan, Register of Deeds (the "Lien") on which Lien there is claimed to be due, as of the date hereon, the sum of THIRTEEN THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FOUR AND 02/100 DOLLARS ($13,204.02). Under the power of sale contained in the Michigan Condominium Act of 1978, MCL 559.208(2), and Article V, Section 5.5(a) of the Condominium Bylaws, attached as part of said Master Deed, please take notice as follows: Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Lien will be foreclosed by a sale of the liened premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on October 16, 2025. The amount due on the Lien may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the premises. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Said premises are located in the Township of Saugatuck, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and more particularly described as: UNIT NO 15 GOSHORN LAKE CONDOMINIUMS, ACCORDING TO THE MASTER DEED RECORDED IN LIBER 2148 ON PAGE 692 AND AMENDMENTS THERETO (IF ANY), AND DESIGNATED AS ALLEGAN COUNTY CONDOMINIUM SUBDIVISION PLAN NO. 157, TOGETHER WITH RIGHTS IN COMMON ELEMENTS AS SET FORTH IN ABOVE MAS

(Continued on Page B7)

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Public Notices

Continued from Page B6

TER DEED AND AS DESCRIBED IN 229 OF PUBLIC ACTS OF 1963 AND ACT 59 OF PUBLIC ACTS OF 1978, AND AMENDMENTS THERETO. Owner(s) of Record: Debra L. Quade Property Address: 3581 65th Street, Saugatuck, Michigan 49453 Parcel ID No. 20-170-015-00 Attention condominium co-owner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Lien at the telephone number stated in this Notice. The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of such sale pursuant to MCL 559.208(2) unless the property is determined abandoned, then, in that event, the redemption period shall be one (1) month from the date of such sale pursuant to MCL 559.208(2), after which Debra L. Quade and all persons claiming through or under her shall be forever barred from all equity of redemption. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, the owner, Debra L. Quade, will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the foreclosure sale or to Goshorn Lake Cottage Condominium Association for damaging the property during the redemption period. Dated: September 5, 2025 By: Goshorn Lake Cottage Condominium Association, a Michigan Nonprofit Corporation For any inquiries, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Lien set forth below: Chantelle R. Neumann, Esq. Hirzel Law, PLC 37085 Grand River Avenue, Suite 200 Farmington, Michigan 48335 Phone: (248) 478-1800 Hirzel Law, PLC File No. 19009
(09-11)(10-02)

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM on OCTOBER 16, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by David Christopher Cooper, Individual, to PNC Bank, National Association, Mortgagee, dated September 14, 2022 and recorded September 29, 2022 in Liber 4802, Page 617 Allegan County Records, Michigan. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Sixty-Four Thousand Two Hundred Eighty-One and 34/100 Dollars ($64,281.34).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Allegan County, Michigan at 9:00 AM on OCTOBER 16, 2025.

Said premises are located in the City of Fennville, Allegan County Michigan, and are described as:

LOT 15 OF ATWATER'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF FENNVILLE, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 2 OF PLATS, PAGE 14.

229 Wilson Street, Fennville, Michigan 49408

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.

Dated: September 11, 2025
File No. 25-011182
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(09-11)(10-02)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 2025-65819-DE and JUDGE Jolene A. Clearwater
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of Frederick Gene Hamlin
Date of Birth:* September 28, 1930
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Frederick Gene Hamlin , died April 24, 2025.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Wendy J. Hamlin and Ruth I. Pearson , personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
Cunningham Dalman, P.C.
Jessica Arends P75919
321 Settlers Road
Holland, MI 49423
(616) 392-1821
Wendy J. Hamlin and Ruth I. Pearson
P.O. Box 160
Douglas, MI 49406
(269) 584-2654

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF ALLEGAN
County Bldg. Allegan, MI 49010
FILE NO.: 25-70962
Hon. Matthew Antkoviak P-59449
ROHIT JAIN,
PLAINTIFF,
VS.
ALTA CIMA CORP D/B/A FACTORY HOME CENTER and
ALL UNKNOWN CLAIMANTS,
DEFENDANTS,
MICHAEL J. BECKER P81132
ORTON, TOOMAN, HALE, MCKOWN
& KIEL P.C.
Attorney for Plaintiff
314 Trowbridge Street
Allegan, MI 49010
ORDER FOR ALTERNATIVE SERVICE OF PROCESS
At a session of court held in the courthouse in
Allegan County, Michigan, Aug. 16, 2025
Present: Matthew Antkoviak P-59449, Circuit Court Judge
Plaintiff filed a verified ex parte motion for service of process in the discretion of the court. After reading the motion, the court finds that Plaintiff has shown that service of process cannot reasonably be made on Defendant All Unknown Claimants by the methods provided in MCR 2.105(A): The court further finds, pursuant to MCR 2.105(]), that service of process by delivery by publication in Allegan County, Michigan is the best available methods of service of process reasonably calculated to give Defendants actual notice of the proceedings and an opportunity to be heard.
IT IS ORDERED that Plaintiff must serve the Defendants All Unknown Claimants by
publication for three consecutive weeks in a newspaper located in Allegan County, Michigan.
Matthew Antkoviak P-59449

STATE OF MICHIGAN
JUDICIAL DISTRICT
48th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
Allegan COUNTY
Summons
Case No. 25-70962
Matthew Antkoviak P-59449
Plaintiffs name, address, and telephone number
Rohit Jain
704 38th Street
Allegan, MI 49010
Plainfift's attomey bar number, address, and telephone number
Michael J. Becker; Orton Tooman PC P81132
314 Trowbridge St.,
Allegan, MI 49010
269-673-2136
v
Defendant's name, address, and telephone number
Alta Cimi Corp D/B/A Factory Expo Home Centers
and All Unknown Claimants
Resident Agent: Paracorp Incorporated
320 N. Meridian Ste 817
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Civil Case
There is no other pending or resolved civil action arising out of the same transaction or occurrence as alleged in the complaint.
Summons
NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANT: In the name of the people of the State of Michigan you are notified:
1. You are being sued.
2. YOU HAVE 21 DAYS after receiving this summons and a copy of the complaint to file a written answer with the court and serve a copy an the other party or take other lawful action with the court (28 days if you were served by mail or you were served outside of Michigan).
3. If you do not answer or take other action within the time allowed, judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.
4. If you require accommodations to use the court because of a disability or if you require a foreign language Interpreter to help you fully participate in court proceedings, plwase contact the court immediately to make arrangements.
Issue date 08-21-2025
Experation date: 11-19-2025
9-11 9-25

TO ALL PERSONS, including: (specify non-custodial parent's name here, if applicable)
whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE: LORI DAWN WALSH has filed a petition for name change.
A name change hearing will be held on OCTOBER 8, 2025 AT 10:15 AM at FAMILY COURT COURTROOM before Judge Hon. Jolene Clearwater P74848 , to change the name of: LORI DAWN WALSH to LORI DAWN ROBERTS

TO ALL PERSONS, including: (specify non-custodial parent's name here, if applicable)
whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE: Tyler McLoud has filed a petition for name change.
A name change hearing will be held on November 6, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at Allegan County Circuit Court, 113 Chestnut St., Allegan, MI 49010 before Judge Hon. Jolene Clearwater P74848 , to change the name of: Bentlee Albert Arendt to Bentley Matthew McLoud

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STATE OF MICHIGAN
48TH CIRCUIT COURT-FAMILY DIVISION
ALLEGAN COUNTY
PUBLICATION OF HEARING
CASE NO. 25-70361-NA PETITION NO. I
Court Address: 113 Chestnut, Allegan, MI 49010
TO:ALLEGAN COUNTY NEWS
241 HUBBARD STREET
ALLEGAN, MI 49010
IN THE MATTER OF: ISEABELLE SPRAGUE
A hearing regarding BENCH TRIAL TO ESTABLISH JURISDICTION will be conducted by the court on OCTOBER 2, 2025 at 9:00 AM (ALL DAY) in FAMILY COURT AT 113 CHESTNUT ST ALLEGAN, MI 49010 before REFEREE JUDITH KASSON-IN PERSON. You have the right to an attorney and the right to a trial by a judge or jury.
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that NATHAN MCKANE personally appear before the court at the time and place stated above. This hearing may result in the Termination of your parental rights. 113 Chestnut St. Allegan, MI 49010, Family Division.
Dated: 8/21/25
Judge Jolene A. Clearwater (P74848)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
Case No. 25-65734-DA and JUDGE Hon. Jolene Clearwater
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of CURTIS DUANE DAY
Date of Birth:*03/20/1970
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, CURTIS DUANE DAY, died 06/17/2025.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Michael Paulen , personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
9/2/2025
Lindsay M. Cummings P74130
KUIPER KRAEMER PC,
6660 Old 28th St SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-454-3700
Michael Paulen
6189 126th Ave
Fennville, MI 49408
312-961-2422

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 25-65808-DE and JUDGE
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of Charles Richard Ginter
Date of Birth:*11/13/1955
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Charles Richard Ginter, died 10/02/2024.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Darlene Ginter, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
09/02/2025
Jessica Blake P79847
PO Box 7038
Huntington Woods MI 48070
313-424-8685
Darlene Ginter
4252 Springwell Court
Wayland, MI 49348

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM on OCTOBER 16, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Justin Mohrig and Sarah Mohrig, husband and wife, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Aspire Financial, Inc. DBA Aspire Lending, Mortgagee, dated August 30, 2013 and recorded September 9, 2013 in Liber 3775, Page 42 Allegan County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by CitiMortgage, Inc., by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Three Hundred Twenty-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty-Seven and 15/100 Dollars ($322,837.15).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Allegan County, Michigan at 9:00 AM on OCTOBER 16, 2025.

Said premises are located in the Township of Leighton, Allegan County Michigan, and are described as:

LOTS 61 AND 62, GREEN LAKE PARK PLAT ADDITION, LEIGHTON TOWNSHIP, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, KNOWN AS "THE COURT" SINCE DATE OF PLAT; ALSO COMMENCING AT A POINT ON THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 61, THENCE SOUTHEAST ALONG THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 66 FEET; THENCE SOUTHWEST TO THE LAKE IN A PARALLEL LINE WITH THE NORTHWEST LINE OF LOT 61, THENCE NORTHWEST ALONG THE LAKE SHORE 66 FEET; THENCE NORTHEAST TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING; CONSISTING OF AND CONTAINING THAT PARCEL OF LAND LYING BETWEEN LOT 61 AND THE LAKE SHORE OF GREEN LAKE PARK, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF IN LIBER 2 OF PLATS, PAGE 36, ALLEGAN COUNTY RECORDS.

4626 Hilltop Drive, Caledonia, Michigan 49316

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.

Dated: September 11, 2025
File No. 25-011403
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(09-11)(10-02)

TO ALL PERSONS, including: (specify non-custodial parent's name here, if applicable)
whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE: DANIELLE NICOLE LABRECQUE has filed a petition for name change.
A name change hearing will be held on Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at 9:45am at FAMILY COURT COURTROOM before Judge Hon. Jolene Clearwater P74848 , to change the name of: DANIELLE NICOLE LABRECQUE to DANNY NICOLE LABRECQUE

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - ALLEGAN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on October 16, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): LLOYD R. FOSTER III JENNIFER L. FOSTER Formerly Known As Jennifer L. Stratton HUSBAND AND WIFE Original Mortgagee: GREEN TREE FINANCIAL SERVICING CORPORATION Date of mortgage: June 21, 1999 Recorded on July 21, 1999, Liber 1866, on Page 62, and re-recorded via Re-Recorded Mortgage on August 16, 1999, Liber 1873, on Page 821, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, for Manufactured Housing Contract Senior/Subordinate Pass-Through Certificate Trust 1999-6 Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Forty-Four Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy-Eight and 50/100 Dollars ($44,778.50) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Allegan County, and described as: ALL THAT PART OF SECTIONS 6 AND 7, TOWN 2 NORTH, RANGE 11 WEST, MARTIN TOWNSHIP, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, DESCRIBED AS: BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 12, TOWN 2 NORTH, RANGE 12 WEST WATSON TOWNSHIP, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THENCE SOUTH 80 RODS, MORE OR LESS, TO THE NORTH 1/8 LINE OF SAID SECTION 7, THENCE EAST 19 1/4 RODS, THENCE NORTH TO THE CENTER OF THE EAST AND WEST HIGHWAY, THENCE WEST ALONG THE CENTER OF SAID HIGHWAY TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, WHICH LIES EASTERLY OF A LINE 150 FEET EASTERLY OF (MEASURED AT RIGHT ANGLES) AND PARALLEL TO A LINE DESCRIBED AS: BEGINNING AT A POINT WHICH IS NORTH 85 DEGREES 45'50" EAST A DISTANCE OF 88.52 FEET AND NORTH 3 DEGREES 35'30" WEST A DISTANCE OF 200 FEET FROM THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 7, THENCE SOUTH 3 DEGREES 35'30" EAST A DISTANCE OF 2000 FEET TO A POINT OF ENDING. Commonly known as 1198 122nd Ave, Martin, MI 49070 The redemption period will be 12 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, for Manufactured Housing Contract Senior/Subordinate Pass-Through Certificate Trust 1999-6 Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1571890
(09-11)(10-02)

CLASSIFIEDS

Sale

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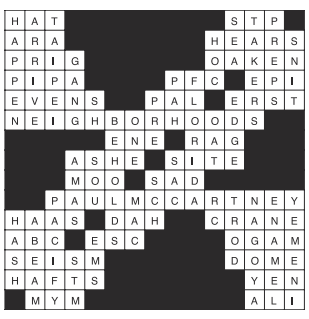

3	9	5	6	1	7	8	4	2
6	1	8	2	4	5	9	7	3
2	7	4	9	8	3	5	6	1
8	4	6	3	2	1	7	9	5
9	5	1	4	7	8	2	3	6
7	2	3	5	6	9	1	8	4
1	6	2	8	9	4	3	5	7
4	3	9	7	5	2	6	1	8
5	8	7	1	3	6	4	2	9

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RELIGION SECTION

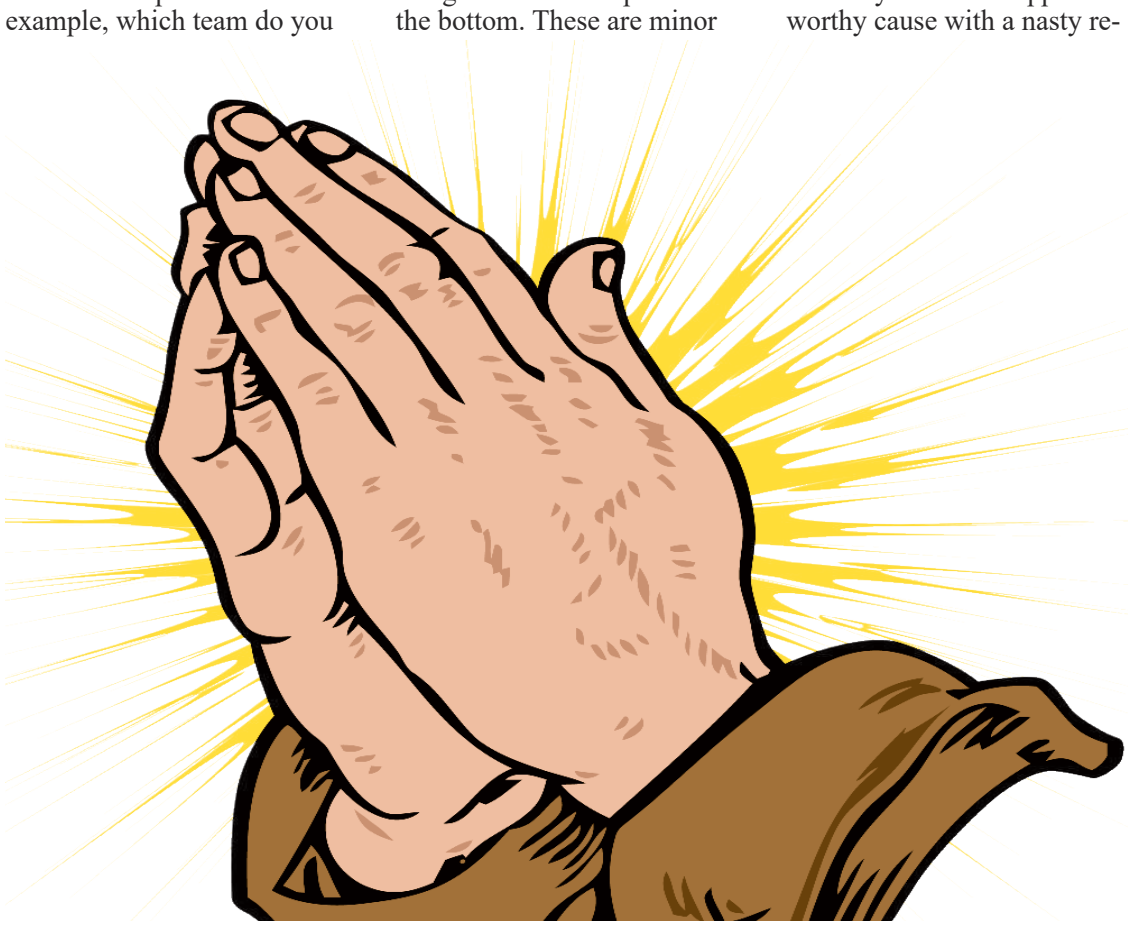
The last time we had a referendum on a school bond, one of the canvassers asked a resident for his support. The neighbor replied, "Why should I? I don't have any children in school, so I spend my money on this?" Another person replied to a referendum for street repair, "What's in it for me? It's not my street, so I don't care. The folks that live there can be for it. Where is the benefit for me?" Others, of course, said that they were going to be supportive.

It seems that we live in a very fractured society. Certainly, it is obvious when we look at the political climate, where divisiveness is rife and compromise is sometimes seen as a tremendous offense. Fractures can also be found in most organizations, churches, and even homes. The root of the problem is when we focus first on how something benefits us.

It is an ancient truth that it is nice to be people who are nice; it is easy to love people who are loveable. That is what makes the first verse of the thirteenth chapter of Hebrews so challenging. It is a game changer in almost all of our relationships. The author wrote, "Let mutual love continue." How do we remain nice to people who are not so nice to us; love people when we receive nothing in return; love people who are blatantly selfish?

It is one thing to disagree with another person. For example, which team do you like better, the Cubs or Sox? Or, plain mac and cheese versus lobster mac and cheese, or even pizza with or without pineapple. Families can disagree whether the bathroom roll goes over the top or under the bottom. These are minor matters of opinion that have little impact on the rest of the world.

But when we intentionally walk past someone who has been hurt in an accident, or callously refuse to support a worthy cause with a nasty remark, is an absence of mutual love. Often, by extension, it helps lead to a more rapid breakdown of society. That is because it is indifference to the needs or plight of others. It can also be a very tangible sign that a person really does not care for the world around him or her.



Recently, many of us have spoken and written about the anger and hate in the world. That is a definite danger, but I think apathy is far more dangerous. The person in the first paragraph who asked for a reason why they should support a bond that benefits the school, is shortsightedly replying, "Why should I care about students and the world? The person who asked, "What's in it for me?" is equally apathetic.

The sole antidote to apathy is to keep foremost in our mind, that first verse in the chapter: Let mutual love continue." In his letter to the Colossians, St Paul reminded us to put the needs ahead of our own, to care, and to be compassionate.

G C Stoppel
Priest Associate
Episcopal Church of the
Good Shepherd, Allegan, MI

Directory of Area Churches

Allegan Assembly of God
424 DeLano St, Allegan
Pastors Tim Heath & Paul Hays
Church: 673-6577

Allegan Bible Church
412 S. Sherman, Allegan
Pastor Jon Gruss
Church: 673-6831

Allegan Christian Center
700 Ely St., Allegan
Paul Knuckles, Pastor
Church: 673-2921

Allegan County Jail
Chaplain Sarah Montgomery
Phone: 673-0350

Allegan United Methodist Church
Corner Walnut & Trowbridge streets, Allegan
Pastor Julia Humenik
Church: 673-4236;

At the Master's Feet
814 21st St., Otsego
269-694-6897
Paster Ray Brown

Blessed Sacrament Church
110 N. Cedar Street, Allegan
Fr. Simon Manjooran
Church: 673-4455

Bloomingdale Bible Church
210 Chestnut at Pine NW
Bloomin gdale
Ofc. 269-427-2101

Bravo Community Church
5587 113th Ave., Fennville
Pastor Duane Terpstra
616-886-1214

Burnips United Methodist
4241 30th, Burnips
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
616-896-8410

Calvary Church of Wayland (IFCA)
304 S. Main Street, Wayland
Pastor Chad Peckham
ccwayland.org

Casco United Methodist Church
880 66th Street, South Haven
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
269-227-3328
www.cascoumc.org

Chicora Country Chapel
4399 108th Ave., Allegan
Pastor Herb Curry
Phone: 269-370-5834

Christ Community Church
3370 113th Ave., Allegan
www.alleganccc.org ·
(269) 673-2329
Pastor Wally Coots

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
687 Linn Street, Allegan
Church: 673-9617

Church of God - Otsego
112 Kalamazoo St., Otsego
Pastor Stephen Burrow Sr.
269-694-9481
www.otsegocog.com

Corner Bible Church
4001 124th Allegan
673-5995
www.cornerbiblechurch.com

CrossWind Community Church
1632 142nd Avenue
Dorr, MI 49323
616-359-9013
Pastor Tommy Boutell

Dunningville Reformed Church
2559 M-40, Allegan
Church: 751-5894
Pastor Eric Burrows-Stone
dunningville.org/index.html

East Martin Christian Reformed Church
510-118th Ave., Martin
269-672-5746
www.eastmartincrc.org

Epiphany Lutheran Church (LCMS)
4219 Parklane, Dorr
www.epiphanydorr.org
Sunday service at 9:15 a.m., Bible Study and Sunday School following

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
101 North Walnut St, Allegan
Office: 673-2254

Faith Baptist Church
2846 125th Ave., Allegan
John Looman, Pastor
673-5040 1-888-354-3272

Fennville Assembly of God
5897 124th Ave.
Fennville, MI 49408
269-561-2683

Fennville United Methodist Church
5849 124th St., Fennville
269-561-5048
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

First Presbyterian Church
200 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church: 673-4631
www.fpcallegan.org
10:00 service time.

First Baptist Church
1290 32nd St., Allegan
Service at 10:00am
Pastors Nathan Smith & Brendon Bayley
www.fbcallegan.com

First Baptist Church of Otsego
247 E Allegan St., Otsego
(269) 694-4160
firstbaptist@fbcotsego.org

First Church of God
1313 Marshall Street, Allegan
269 673-3881
www.pathtohim.org
Pastor, Tim Secord

First Congregational Church
323 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church Office: 673-3139
Pastor Todd Wagner

First Congregational Church
120 W. Morrell St., Otsego
269-694-6085
Pastor Lenny Luchetti

First Presbyterian Church of Plainwell
303 East Bridge St.
Plainwell, MI 49080
685-5990

Friendship Bible Church
104 Baker St., Hopkins, MI
Pastor Chris Cronk and Worship Pastor Tony Caldarona
Office 793-7929

Ganges Baptist Church
6577 122nd Avenue, Fennville
269-543-4203
11AM each Sunday

Ganges United Methodist Church
2218 68th St
Fennville MI 49408
Phone 269-543-3581
Lay Minister - Marcia A. Tucker

Grace Church of Hamilton
3690 Lincoln Rd. P.o. Box 97
Hamilton Mi 49419
269.264.4900
Gracechurchofhamilton@gmail.com

Haven Church
PO Box 1
4691 Oak Street, Hamilton
(269)751-7300
Pastor Mike Drew
FB:havenreformedchurch

Hope Lutheran Church
290 12th St., Plainwell
(269) 685-1348
Pastor Nicole Smith
Worship 10:30am; S. School 9:15am

Hopkins Community Reformed Church
2142 128th Ave., Hopkins
(269) 793-7361
hopkinscommunitychurch.net

Hopkins United Methodist Church
322 N. Maple St., Hopkins
(269) 793-7323
Pastor Kelsey French

Horseshoe Community Bible Church
4950 104th Avenue, Grand Junction
269-521-4580 ·
Pastor Don Miller

Immanuel Lutheran Church
631 Grand Street, Allegan
Church: 673-3335
Rev. Christopher Laughlin

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness
2199 Taft Road, Allegan
Phone: 673-6179

Living Waters Community Church
5458 M-89, Fennville
Service: 10:30 Sundays
Pastor Andrew Leach
269-561-5277

Martin Reformed Church
1073 W. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor: Matthew Hendricks
672-5596

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor Margaret Stoken
269-672-7097
www.martinumc.org

Merson Church
3313 102nd Ave., Gobles, MI
Office: 673-5274
www.mersonchurch.org

Montage Ministries
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Tuesdays 6:30-8:00pm

Monterey Center United Methodist Church
3022 130th Ave.
Monterey Center, 49328
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
793-7288

Mt. Calvary M.B. Church
5425 105th Ave., Pullman
Pastor Everett Belue
269-382-3405

New Hope Baptist Church
2011 Lincoln Road (M-40 N)
Pastor Tadd Butler
673-1938

Northbridge Church
8824 Douglas, Kalamazoo
269-385-4378 ·
www.northbridge.cc

Northpoint Ministries
04077 M40 (M40/CR390)
Gobles MI · 269.628.9199
Pastor Gary Lounsberry
Sunday Worship: 11am

OAKLAND CRC
4460 38th Street
Hamilton. Mi. 49419
616 688 5290
Pastor Mark Vande Zande

Otsego United Methodist Church
223 E Allegan St. Otsego MI
10:00 a.m. Worship
Reverend Dan Minor
Otsegomethodistchurch.org

Pathfinder North Church
(A Global Methodist Church)
410 E. Orleans St.
Otsego, MI 49078
9:30 Fellowship 10:00 Worship
Rev Ron Hansen
Pathfindernorth.com

Peace Lutheran Church
805 S. Wilmott St., Otsego
www.peaceotsego.com
694-6104

Pearl United Methodist Church
1689 56th St., Fennville
269-561-5048 Worship 9:30 am
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

Pentecostal Church of God I.M
2281 57th St, Fennville
Wed/Miércoles @ 7:00 pm
Sunday/Domingo @ 10:00 am
Worship Service @ 11:00am
Rev. Jeremias & Maribel Gaytan
231) 923-6887 - (231) 923-6959
Email: gytnj@yahoo.com

Plainwell First Baptist Church
404 W. Bridge St., Plainwell
(269) 685-8888
Pastor George Osborn

Plainwell First United Methodist Church
200 Park St. Plainwell
269-685-5113
www.fumcplainwell.com

Rectify Church
247 N. Main St., Allegan
616-218-1556
Pastor Sarah Montgomery

Redemption Place Church of God
1900 M-40, Allegan
Pastor Deborah Lesher
Church: 269-355-1167

Refreshing Springs Ministries
201 Briggs St., Allegan
616-510-7416
Pastor Adrian Hall

River of Life Church
605 W. Allegan, Otsego
269-672-9904
www.alleganchurch.com

Seventh Day Adventist Church
229 Cutler Street, Allegan
Dan Rachor, Pastor
Church: 673-3284

Shelbyville United Methodist Church
938 124th Ave., Shelbyville
672-7097 - Church office
Pastor Margaret Stoken

South Monterey United Methodist Church
Pastor Kelsey French
Church: 793-7323

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
11850 9 Mile Rd., Shelbyville
269-664-4345
Service: Sundays 9:30 am

Saint John's Church Of God In Christ
716 Academy St, Allegan
Rev. Jeremiah Johnson Sr.
Phone: 673-8590—673-3007

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1764 34th St., Allegan
Pastor Ronald Kruse 673-2079
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

St. Margaret's Catholic Church
766 S. Farmer St., Otsego
269-694-6311

Third Coast Community Church
www.thirdcoastff.org |
269.857.5633
6069 Blue Star Hwy, Saugatuck, MI 49453
Sunday Worship: 10:00am

Trowbridge Community Church
355 26th Street, Otsego
Pastor Mykel Hall, Pastor
Church: 673-5502

Unity Baptist Church
35 14 12th St. Wayland
Pastor Kelly Ryan
Cell # (269) 330-2217

Watson Bible Church
1626 116th St., Otsego
Pastor Tim Morris
672-2166

Wayland Community Church
502 West Superior, Wayland
(616) 877-6134
Worship Sunday @ 10:30am

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BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices Cheri Sleeman Schulz Associate Broker, REALTOR 269-720-4735 cherischulz@bhhsmi.com 430 Western Avenue, Allegan